Tuesday, July 10, 2012 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 212 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

[MARINE] PARADISE (NEARLY) LOST Diver ties through a field of pristine soft leather corals at Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park. Only about 3 percent of the Philippine coral reefs are in "excellent condition." (Story below)

78 no-mining zones in EO

It's centerpiece of P-Noy's Executive Order 79

By Gil C. Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Aquino has expanded the "no-go" mining zones in the country to include 78 tourism sites, and farms, marine sanctuaries and island ecosystems in response to the public clamor to protect the environment from mining.

The identification of more mine-free areas in the country is the centerpiece of the administration's mining reform program under Executive Order No. 79, which the President signed on July 6. A copy of the order was released yesterday.

"One of the most important provisions here is Section 1, expanding in effect the areas close to mining," Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said at a press briefing in Malacañang. "We call them the 'no-go' zones. Before this EO, the no-go areas were confined [to] the protected areas."

Other highlights of the executive order:

- Moratorium on the grant of new mining agreements until Congress shall have come up with a revenue-sharing scheme between the government and mining firms.
- Consistency of ordinances with national laws.
- Confining small-scale mining to designated areas to be called "Minahang Bayan."
- Review and possible renegotiation of existing contracts.

TUNG-HINING A6

LIGHT IN THE TUNNEL Under EO 79, small-scale miners like this one in Itogon, Benguet province, will be confined to the "Minahan ng Bayan" and banned from using mercury to process the mined area.

Antimining advocates cheer, but...

By the Inquirer Staff

ARDENT antimining advocate Gina Lopez cheered President Aquino for making a stand to protect the environment by explicitly identifying in Executive Order No. 79 the areas banned from mining.

However, Lopez said the President must address how existing mining contracts not affected by the order would be treated "especially if they run smack in the middle of a tourism area or agricultural land."

"Whose interests will prevail—the miners or the farmers?" asked Lopez in a phone interview.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said there were no existing mining operations in the

ANTIMINING A6

Chamber of Mines applauds policy / A4

Cambodian 'mystery disease' linked to EV-71

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT'S BACK to basics: Just wash your hands thoroughly and frequently and observe strict personal hygiene to prevent the spread of the so-called "mysterious disease" that has already claimed the lives of at least 56 children in Cambodia.

The Department of Health (DOH) yesterday dispensed these tips to the public after the World Health Organization (WHO) linked the mysterious

CAMBODIAN A4

PH reefs at risk: It makes exec cry

By Kristine L. Alave

NEARLY all the reefs in the Coral Triangle, the waters that surround six countries in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific, are in decline, and the Philippines is leading in reef degradation, endangering its economy and food supply.

According to a study by the World Resources Institute (WRI) called Reefs at Risk, about 85 percent of the reefs in the Coral Triangle, a biodiversity hot spot, are in peril.

The threats to the region—which covers the waters of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands—come from overfishing, watershed pollution and coastal development.

Factors such as climate change and ocean acidification

PERILOUS A2

Asean chief goal: Code of conduct with China

AS FOREIGN ministers met in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, Prime Minister Hun Sen said hammering out a code of conduct with China in the disputed waters was a chief goal for the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Tension over competing claims in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) promises to be the hot button issue of the meetings, particularly here in the week when US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her Chinese counterpart, Yang Jiechi, are among regional participants, including Japan and the Korea, for the security-focused Asean Regional Forum (ARF).

Both the Asean and China are committed to developing a code of conduct for the West Philippine Sea, Asean Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan said yesterday.

ASEAN A4

Wake-upper: Pagcor cuts billion-peso coffee expenses by half

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER giving President Aquino sleepless nights when he found out that it had spent P1 billion on coffee for 10 years, the Philippine Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) has slashed by half the cost of the free beverage it serves casino patrons across the country.

Marican Bautista, Pagcor assistant VP for Corporate Communications, said the state-gaming corporation has switched to locally grown beans to reduce its annual coffee expenses from P100 million annually to "just around P40 million to P50 million."

MAKE-UPPER A4

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Military losing sight of its primary role—to fight and win wars

By Dona Z. Pazolagan

THE MILITARY'S role is to win wars against the enemy, not to support civilians and govern-ment agencies.

So claimed an article in the latest issue of "The Air Force Way 2012," the official magazine of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), that came out in time for its 65th anniversary last week.

The article, which did not carry a byline, argued that the country's military has lost sight of its primary mission "to fight and win wars" due to its expanded role in supporting civilian government agencies.

Filipino soldiers have lost their critical combat capabilities since the time "has been diverted to over-functions supporting civilians and not soldiers," the article pointed out.

"Such diversion of attention and capabilities had given rise to uniformed soldiers to the unfortunate to forget consider themselves as warriors but as policemen, relief workers, arbiters, builders, health care providers, politicians, everything but warfighters," read the article titled "Military Warefare" (re-translation found).

The article criticized the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) focus on civic projects that were promoted in its term Bayanihan counter-insurgency campaign under the Aquino administration.

The PAF article argued that a professional soldier's "imperative is to use warfighting (until his/her responsibility is as an expert political adviser and a soldier is his society...his corporate character is that of a warrior."

Instead, the writer said, soldiers are made to do noncombat-ry related tasks like medical missions, school construction and community clean-up "particularly of the battlefield's and young civilian agencies to perform their mandate."

While support to civilian agencies should only be secondary to the military's core function of warfighting, the article said that "in reality you'll see that time and activities that should have been devoted to combat training and preparation are being used to fulfill civilian tasks."

The PAF article also assailed the lack of interest in the study of military theory and history as "another sign that military pro-fessionalism is eroding."

It added that military theory and history are hardly taught as subjects in military educational institutions, not even in the senior ranks in the AFP officer corps as part of their continuing studies.

"Ironically, the military armed forces have even more value to Philippine military history by thoroughly studying it than their Filipino counterparts," the PAF article said.

The article said the AFP officer corps needed to show "high levels of proficiency in professional military education" in the "time of serious external and internal defense and military challenges.

"Does it have... morale courage to advise political leaders that there are limits to what the armed forces can do, and that expanding their roles runs the danger of diverting them from their primary mission and focus?" the article asked.

Gov't sets P404.6B for infrastructure

THE GOVERNMENT plans to spend a record P404.6 billion on infrastructure next year as it aims to push its growth rate to 8 percent in subsequent years, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said yesterday.

The Philippine economy could see growth accelerate to the highest levels since democracy was restored in 1986, Abad said, supported by higher state spending, strong domestic demand, remittances and other factors.

Abad said economic growth—pegged by Typhoon Gaemi to 6 percent in 2011 and 7.5 percent to 8 percent in 2012—would be 8 percent to 8.5 percent in 2013 and 7.5 percent to 8.5 percent in 2014.

He said expansion that the budget for next year will include infrastructure spending that's more than 19 percent above the P339.3 billion allocated for it in this year's budget.

With the increased infrastructure spending, "you can imagine the impact on employment, on reducing years of doing business as well as expanding opportunities for the poorest among," Abad said.

The government does not plan new taxes in 2013, but a forecasting that its overall revenue will increase 14.5 percent from this year's level.

Abad said, however, that next year's allocation on infrastructure could increase if proposed rules tax on cigarette and tobacco taxes are passed into law, generating more revenue.

The government will propose to Congress a 18.5 percent increase in its spending budget to P2.027 trillion for 2013 up from this year's P1.82 trillion, Abad said.

He said the percentage of the new budget going to social services would be increased to 34.6 percent from this year's 33.9 percent.

The government wants to achieve annual growth of 7 percent to 8 percent within President Aquino's six-year term to make a re-duction dent to poverty. About one-third of the country's 94 million people are poor.

In the first quarter of 2012, the economy grew 6.4 percent year-on-year, second only to China among Asian economies, and Aquino told Reuters last week he expected the pace to accelerate in the second quarter.

Abad said the government is sticking to this year's growth target of 6 percent to 6 percent, despite the economy's impressive first quarter because of the uncertainties stemming from the debt crisis in Europe and slowing US and Chinese economies.

A growth should ease to between 4 percent to 7 percent next year, followed by 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent in 2014, Abad said.

Ratings agencies, which have updated their views on the Philippines, have said the country must lift its 41% GDP growth potential through higher investments if it wants to secure investment grade status. Reuters

BIMP ANNIVERSARY President Aquino receives the honor guard during the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology's 23rd anniversary held in Camp Crame.

Asean drafts HR declaration

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) on Sunday decided to release "key elements" of a proposed human rights declaration after international rights groups slammed secrecy surrounding the document.

The decision was reached after Asean foreign ministers attending a regional forum in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh met with reporters. Ten of the bloc's human rights commissioners, which is drafting the declaration.

Asean foreign ministers "decided to release key elements of the draft for the public as part of the consultations," Kao Kim Hourn, secretary of state at the Cambodian foreign ministry, told reporters in Phnom Penh.

But he said the draft could not be made public in its entirety because it had not been finalized.

Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other groups had earlier warned the 10 Asean foreign ministers the proposed human rights declaration could fall below global standards if the wider public was left out of the consultations, which had been "mainly behind closed doors."

Asean's Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights on Saturday refused to end the first draft of a declaration that is to serve as a framework for human rights cooperation within the regional bloc.

A second draft is expected in October, which will be reviewed before being submitted for approval by regional leaders at their annual summit in November.

Human Rights Watch said Asean should promise to make the declaration line up to global standards.

Phil Robertson, the New York-based watchdog's deputy director for Asia, said the drafting of the declaration was kept under wraps and underwent a "wholly inadequate consultation process."

"Asean ministers should publicly commit to a declaration that won't undermine international human rights standards in any way," Robertson said in a statement.

The rights groups had urged the Asean foreign ministers to include a provision in the declaration ensuring that no portion of it should be interpreted in a manner inconsistent with or undermining global human rights standards.

There should be no ambiguities as well to any "balancing" of rights and responsibilities as well as any limiting of rights by referring to national, political, economic, or other situations, they said.

With a report from AFP

Church seeks to lure back prodigal children

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE CATHOLIC Church will evangelize the Philippines anew to win back Filipinos who have broken away and joined other churches.

Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), pointed out that the undertaking would be part of a nine-year preparation by the Church for the celebration of the 500th year of Christianity in the Philippines.

Speaking at a news conference after the close of the CBCP's biannual conference, Palma said the journey toward Manila 16, 2021 "is more centered on the coming of Christianity to the Philippines—was an opportunity for the Church and its clergy to reflect on their shortcomings, and how they could draw back people to the Catholic Faith.

"It's possible that we failed somewhere in the sense that people are transferring to another church because they are not happy," Palma said in a later talk with reporters.

Palma said the Church was willing to take up new ways and means to bring back people growing weak in their faith.

"We have been doing a lot of things already such as renewed enthusiasm in teachings, rites and other activities that could once more make people believe that the Church can be their," Palma said.

The CBCP released a pastoral statement yesterday, saying the "new evangelization" meant considering "new methods and means for transmitting the good News" more effectively.

The CBCP's evangelization would also include "bringing the Good News to the poor," reaching out to the Catholic flock whose faith life has been "largely eroded" and not due to ecclesiastic, moral or doctrinal deficiencies, opposition and those who have joined other churches and religious sects.

DILG chief flip-flops on Jordanian

By Dona Z. Pazolagan

INTERIOR Secretary Jesse Robredo flip-flopped on his earlier pronouncement that negotiations are ongoing for the release of a Jordanian journalist and two Filipino TV crew held by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu.

In an interview yesterday, Robredo denied having earlier said there were talks to release Jordanian Baha Mousa Ahmed Al-Balawi, chief of Al-Arabiya News Network's TV bureau, Filipino cameraman Ramelito Ycka and audio man Rolando Letrero. The three were reported missing on July 12.

Robredo told reporters that no negotiations are taking place, noting their policy against ransom payments.

He also denied that any ransom demand was made.

The interior secretary denied having said earlier that negotiations are going on.

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ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

Chamber of Mines applauds policy: Signal to all investors

By Ria T. Dizhonekio

THE ISSUANCE of the long-awaited Executive Order No. 79 on mining reforms drew generally positive reactions from the mining industry.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said the policy offered solutions that would encourage the development of the country's mineral resources.

"We submit that legislation should take include a review of the Local Government Code, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act and the Internal Revenue Code in a progressive effort to harmonize conflicting provisions of these laws with the mining policy," COMP said in a statement.

The members applaud the policy's directive to ensure consistency of local ordinances with the Constitution and national laws, as well as LGU cooperation," it said.

The COMP said it supported the government decision to close certain areas to mining, adding that responsible mining is critical and protected areas should be preserved for future generations.

It also lauded the Aquino administration's intent to improve the small-scale mining industry and to develop downstream industries.

"We view the issue signal on developing the policy as recognition of the important role of responsible mining as a catalyst for economic growth. The mining policy is a signal to all investors of government's desire to establish a consistent and stable business environment," it said.

The chamber also welcomed the move to level the playing field. But we hopefully that the policy will harmonize conflicting interests, encourage investments, and better sustainable development especially in the country-side where it is greatly needed," COMP said.

Asean chief goal: Code of conduct with China in disputed sea

From page A1

But in rare speaking after the first informal meeting of senior Asean and Chinese officials on a code of conduct for the seas-way that is claimed in whole or in part by China and Asean members Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines.

At the meeting on Sunday, Asean showed China the key elements of a draft code of conduct, officials said, describing the meeting as productive.

In a statement, the Chinese Embassy said Asean and China had had an informal discussion on how to jointly formulate a code of conduct in the West Philippine Sea.

Li Laoshi, head of Asian Affairs on Sunday urged "progress" on the code of conduct in the sea than the Philippines and Vietnam had proposed.

US support for the code of conduct has made China suspicious of the United States' intentions, and it is campaigning behind the scenes to defend the accord.

The meeting drew Indonesia, Washington, and Beijing is expected to hone hope over the summit, following the recent expansion of US military relations with the Philippines and Vietnam.

But observers predict Chinese will be reluctant to give away any friction with China and may be less outspoken on the maritime dispute than in the past.

Code of conduct

In her opening address, Wan Seo urged countries to "give compromise" by working toward a code of conduct in the sea, which will provide guidelines to resolving disputes over a web of conflicting territorial claims according to several members nations.

He said Asean should show that it could be a "driving force for the development of Asian peace and cooperation" on political and security issues.

"Maintaining regional peace and security is indispensable for Asean prosperity," said the Cambodian leader, whose country currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the bloc.

Philippine lead

Tensions have risen recently in the West Philippine Sea, with both Vietnam and the Philippines accusing China of aggressive behavior.

The Philippines is leading a push for Asean to unite to pressure China to accept a code of conduct, but Beijing has preferred an approach that would deal with the claimants individually.

Senior diplomats attending the meetings in Cambodia said Asean was still managing wire how to approach the issue cautiously and offending China, the world's second-biggest economy and a major trade partner for many Southeast Asian states.

One diplomat, who asked not to be named, said Asean had yet to reach consensus on whether to mention the recent standoff between Chinese and Philippine ships in the disputed Scarborough Shoal. (Reuters, with Jhoel Escandor in a text communique)

Crunch talks

On Sunday, Indonesia's foreign minister told reporters in Phnom Penh he expected to see movement on efforts to draft guidelines to resolve disputes in the West Philippine Sea.

"If not now, when? I mean, this is about we are here for," Foreign Minister Rhaly Natalegawa told reporters, said in the end his counterpart from other Asean nations prepared to hold crunch talks on easing friction in the West Philippine Sea.

Another statement, to be issued at the end of the wider ARF meeting, is expected to refer to the West Philippine Sea issue in general terms, another diplomat said.

Rival claims

China claims essentially all of the sea, home to vital shipping lanes and believed to be rich in oil and gas deposits. Taiwan and Vietnam also maintain the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia also have claims in the waters.

In June, China angered Vietnam by inviting bids for exploration of oil blocks in contested waters, sparking protests in Hanoi.

All listed Shen Chinese ships remain at Panyang Hood three weeks after two Philippine vessels dispersed under an understanding for a temporary end to a standoff over possession of the shoal that began in April.

Chinese refused to call home ships has prompted talk in the Philippine legislature and defense establishment to redeploy vessels to the shoal to assert Manila's sovereignty in its parts of the West Philippine Sea. *AFP and AFP*

Cambodian 'mystery disease' identified, linked to EV-71

From page A1

disease in Cambodia to Enterovirus 71 (EV-71), which causes a deadly hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD).

But Health Secretary Enrique Ona said HFMD should not be confused with the foot and mouth disease in animals.

Based on its investigation conducted with the Cambodian Ministry of Health, the WHO said a 3-month-old girl from Los Angeles tested positive for EV-71, known to "generally cause severe complications among some patients."

But laboratory samples were not available for the majority of the cases in the epidemic, aged between 5 months to 11 years old, died before appropriate samples could be taken, the health agency said. As of July 5, 56 children had been affected by the syndrome, 52 of them fatally.

Body secretions

A further investigation of the available samples also showed traces of other pathogens, including dengue and Streptococcus suis, a pathogen of pigs capable of causing meningitis in humans.

In a statement, Dar Chamnan said HFMD is an illness affecting mostly children which is commonly spread after direct contact with body secretions coming from infected people. The virus, Adults, however, appear to be protected against the disease "probably because of early infection in childhood," the DOH secretary said.

"Hand washing and strict personal hygiene [are] especially [the] most important [in] control," he said. "No other cases of HFMD or viral antibiotics will not be of any help in treating it."

The WHO also advised patients infected with the disease to drink plenty of fluids to ensure the prevention of dehydration due to high fever and to avoid taking steroids. Parents should seek medical help if these children suddenly develop high fever, vomit and show signs of weakness or limb weakness, the WHO added.

Ona yesterday instructed the Bureau of Quarantine to boost the screening process of all arriving international travelers to a routine procedure against the disease. But Ebola were no travel restrictions put in place from Cambodia, he added.

He also directed hospitals to be on the lookout for similar cases as a matter of enhancing surveillance.

The quarantine office at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Nia) is now "closely monitoring" incoming passengers at Nia's Terminals 1, 2, 3 and 4, according to the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) public affairs office.

While the MIAA has yet to come up with specific guidelines regarding the mysterious disease, the quarantine office is "currently using thermal scanners in all terminals to detect those who among the passengers have a high temperature and signs of physical discomfort."

An average of 12,000 incoming passengers a day use the Nia's four terminals.

Negative for H5N1

The samples tested negative for H5N1 and other influenza viruses, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and the Rajadevan, which causes severe illness disseminated by the International Health Regulations, the WHO.

EV71 is known to cause HFMD, which according to health experts, is a common disease among infants and children which has been associated with more serious complications and may cause death.

Symptoms include fever that may last 24 to 48 hours, painful sores in the mouth and a rash and blisters on the hands, feet and buttocks.

The viral outbreak related to EV71 was revealed in California in 1969. It extended to Europe with outbreaks in Bulgaria and Hungary between 1978 and 1978 before it spread to various countries in Asia. *With a report from Darcy Espinosa*

PH reefs at risk: It makes PAWB executive cry

From page A1

increase the number of threatened coral reefs to 90 percent, the WWF study said.

Scientists are concerned about the Coral Triangle because the region is home to 76 percent of the world's reef-building species and 53 percent of the world's coral reefs.

"Across the Coral Triangle region, coastal communities depend on coral reefs for food, livelihoods and protection from severe storms and tsunamis, but the pressures on these ecosystems are incredibly high," said Lasserie Burke, senior associate at the WRI and lead author of the study.

"Reefs are resilient—they can recover from coral bleaching and other impacts—but only if other threats are low," Burke said. "The benefits reefs provide are at risk, which is why concerted action to mitigate threats to reefs across the Coral Triangle region is so important," she added.

Decline due to farmers

The WRI study was released at the International Coral Reefs Symposium in Cairns, Australia, yesterday. About 2,500 scientists and researchers who work on coral reefs and fisheries signed a statement calling for urgent action to save the world's coral reefs.

The statement said about 20 percent to 30 percent of the world's reef systems were severely degraded, and that was expected to increase if local and global indicators failed to act.

"Coral reefs are important ecosystems of ecological, economic and cultural value, yet they are in decline worldwide due to human activities," the statement said. "Local-based sources of pollution, sedimentation, overfishing and climate change are the major threats, and all of them are expected to increase in severity."

Major focus

The Coral Triangle is one of the major focus of the conference because it contains nearly 30 percent of the world's coral reefs and more than 3,000 species of fish—twice the number found anywhere else in the world.

More than 130 million people living in the region rely on reef ecosystems for food, employment and revenue from tourism.

"The influence of coral reefs on the economic and well-being of people's lives cannot be overstated," said Enric Sarmi, research associate at the WRI. "The influence extends far beyond the Coral Triangle to people around the world who benefit from fisheries, pharmaceuticals and numerous other services that reefs provide."

The Philippines, which has the most studied reef systems in Southeast Asia, follows the regional and global decline in reefs.

"Almost all reefs in the Philippines are threatened by local activities," the WRI study said. "Two-thirds are rated as high or very high threat categories."

In 2005, only 5 percent of the reefs in the Philippines were in "excellent condition," said Rosario Anos and Wildlife Bureau Director Theodore Lim, who represented the report on the Philippines' coral reef conditions in a meeting during the symposium.

World state

But as of 2010, only 1 percent of Philippine reefs were in pristine condition, 26 percent were in poor condition. "It makes me cry," Lim said in her report.

Like the rest of Southeast Asian countries, the Philippines is struggling with controlling illegal fishing, oil spills and hazardous waste from agricultural, and industry. Sedimentation from mining is also becoming a major problem, Lim said.

These issues are amplified by the growth in population in the Philippines' coastal areas, she said.

Climate changes is also destroying the country's reefs. In 2010, a widespread coral bleaching event, which is triggered by warmer water temperatures, happened in the Philippines.

If the public does not and the private sector failed to deal with these issues, about 85 percent of the Philippines' reef ecosystems would be in poor condition by 2020, Lim said.

Bleak future

The Philippines face a bleak future because the degradation of their country's coral reefs has an impact on food security and overall economic well-being.

Filipinos are highly dependent on the seas, with 40 million of them living on the coasts. Seafood provides Filipinos much of their protein needs.

The loss and reversed tourism are also major foreign exchange earners for the country, while coastal tourism and coastal gas are emerging sources of income for the government.

The effects of the destruction of the country's coral reefs are now felt in the drop in the yield and size of fish stocks, Lim said. Fishermen have been catching less and less commercially valuable fish species such as groupers and snappers, Lim said.

Impact closed season

Local and foreign scientists urged the Philippines and other Coral Triangle countries to build more and bigger marine protected areas. They said managing fishing areas by imposing closed seasons, establishing "no-take areas" where fishing is not allowed, and going with fish-friendly methods could help restore coral reefs and increase fish stocks.

In fact, less than 1 percent of the protected areas in the Coral Triangle is effective in averting coral degradation, the WRI study said.

Alex Wilde, a senior scientist at The Nature Conservancy who has done work in coastal Philippines, said that "wholesale" is still room for improvement in increasing the effectiveness of marine protected areas, especially large ones that require significant resources to manage. A lot of progress has been made in building up awareness about reef protection at the local level, and a lot of marine protected areas with the tools and resources to manage the reefs than they depend on."

Wake-upper: Pagcor cuts billion-peso coffee expenses by half

From page A1

"Yes, the cost of coffee has gone down because we now hold coffee breaks from Tagaytay City instead of in hotels and [have] ongoing concessionaires," Bautista said in senate views. "Our expenses went down from P100 million a year to just around P46 million to P50 million," she added.

Under the previous administration, Bautista said Pagcor doubled cut around P100 per cup of coffee served free to patrons in its 11 casinos across the country.

No more concessionaires

"Also, the price is P630 for a cup of coffee and P714.00 for premium flavored coffee," she said.

Bautista said Pagcor no longer got concessionaires to cater to coffee service. "We now do services ahead of the coffee breaks," she added.

The Pagcor official said several concessionaires were handling the coffee services for its casino patrons but that Pryce claims specially those got the biggest cuts.

While the concessionaire's gave base coffee to casino customers, Pagcor paid for it at "around P100 per cup," Bautista said, adding that free coffee is considered an amenity in casinos abroad and is meant to a come on for customers.

In his State of the Nation Address last year, an indignant President Aquino talked against the investment cost of coffee at Pagcor that the government practice dating back to the time Marcos gave Lucio Tan 36 slots in 1990 to 1995 to 18 years.

18 million cups

"At P1.00 per cup, that would be 18 million cups of coffee over the last several years). Where did all that coffee go? Who drank it?" the President asked congress. "Perhaps we can find the people who consumed all that coffee and ask if they have been able to sleep in the last few years," he added.

A day after the June, Pagcor chief Cristino Naguiat Jr. revealed that Prime shares figured in Tan's P4 billion coffee expenditure. Prime Media is owned by Carlota Cook Manotoc Tan, wife of businessman Johnny Tan who has ties to former Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino.

Tan's shares are in two spin-offs and the second nominee of the Genuino-backed party-list group Bantay Ilog. Bongo Jikan, which killed itself on environmental advocacy group when it ran in the 2010 elections. Genuino's daughter, Sheryll Ilan was Bida's first nominee.

'More acquaintances'

The Tan camp also denied having the "aroma" of Genuino and Pagcor, saying Ilan's appointment "accurate" and "legitimate business-made-strongly-acquired."

On July 27, Genuino said the President was "on the hot seat" and asked the current Pagcor chair to check for facts before questioning the Ilog-Napindan Channel project, why one company managed to run the racetracks to put up coffee shops in the casinos, because and the waterborne mass media based on feedback from the various "players" themselves.

On Aug. 4, Gabriela Senator

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Cambodian 'mystery disease' identified, linked to EV-71

From page A1

disease in Cambodia to Enterovirus 71 (EV-71), which causes a deadly hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD).

But Health Secretary Enrique Ona said HFMD should not be confused with the foot and mouth disease in animals.

Based on its investigation conducted with the Cambodian Ministry of Health, the WHO said a 3-month-old girl from Los Angeles tested positive for EV-71, known to "generally cause severe complications among some patients."

But laboratory samples were not available for the majority of the cases in the epidemic, aged between 5 months to 11 years old, died before appropriate samples could be taken, the health agency said. As of July 5, 56 children had been affected by the syndrome, 52 of them fatally.

Body secretions

A further investigation of the available samples also showed traces of other pathogens, including dengue and Streptococcus suis, a pathogen of pigs capable of causing meningitis in humans.

In a statement, Dar Chamnan said HFMD is an illness affecting mostly children which is commonly spread after direct contact with body secretions coming from infected people. The virus, Adults, however, appear to be protected against the disease "probably because of early infection in childhood," the DOH secretary said.

"Hand washing and strict personal hygiene [are] especially [the] most important [in] control," he said. "No other cases of HFMD or viral antibiotics will not be of any help in treating it."

The WHO also advised patients infected with the disease to drink plenty of fluids to ensure the prevention of dehydration due to high fever and to avoid taking steroids. Parents should seek medical help if these children suddenly develop high fever, vomit and show signs of weakness or limb weakness, the WHO added.

Ona yesterday instructed the Bureau of Quarantine to boost the screening process of all arriving international travelers to a routine procedure against the disease. But Ebola were no travel restrictions put in place from Cambodia, he added.

He also directed hospitals to be on the lookout for similar cases as a matter of enhancing surveillance.

The quarantine office at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Nia) is now "closely monitoring" incoming passengers at Nia's Terminals 1, 2, 3 and 4, according to the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) public affairs office.

While the MIAA has yet to come up with specific guidelines regarding the mysterious disease, the quarantine office is "currently using thermal scanners in all terminals to detect those who among the passengers have a high temperature and signs of physical discomfort."

An average of 12,000 incoming passengers a day use the Nia's four terminals.

Negative for H5N1

The samples tested negative for H5N1 and other influenza viruses, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and the Rajadevan, which causes severe illness disseminated by the International Health Regulations, the WHO.

EV71 is known to cause HFMD, which according to health experts, is a common disease among infants and children which has been associated with more serious complications and may cause death.

Symptoms include fever that may last 24 to 48 hours, painful sores in the mouth and a rash and blisters on the hands, feet and buttocks.

The viral outbreak related to EV71 was revealed in California in 1969. It extended to Europe with outbreaks in Bulgaria and Hungary between 1978 and 1978 before it spread to various countries in Asia. *With a report from Darcy Espinosa*

PH reefs at risk: It makes PAWB executive cry

From page A1

increase the number of threatened coral reefs to 90 percent, the WWF study said.

Scientists are concerned about the Coral Triangle because the region is home to 76 percent of the world's reef-building species and 53 percent of the world's coral reefs.

"Across the Coral Triangle region, coastal communities depend on coral reefs for food, livelihoods and protection from severe storms and tsunamis, but the pressures on these ecosystems are incredibly high," said Lasserie Burke, senior associate at the WRI and lead author of the study.

"Reefs are resilient—they can recover from coral bleaching and other impacts—but only if other threats are low," Burke said. "The benefits reefs provide are at risk, which is why concerted action to mitigate threats to reefs across the Coral Triangle region is so important," she added.

Decline due to farmers

The WRI study was released at the International Coral Reefs Symposium in Cairns, Australia, yesterday. About 2,500 scientists and researchers who work on coral reefs and fisheries signed a statement calling for urgent action to save the world's coral reefs.

The statement said about 20 percent to 30 percent of the world's reef systems were severely degraded, and that was expected to increase if local and global indicators failed to act.

"Coral reefs are important ecosystems of ecological, economic and cultural value, yet they are in decline worldwide due to human activities," the statement said. "Local-based sources of pollution, sedimentation, overfishing and climate change are the major threats, and all of them are expected to increase in severity."

Major focus

The Coral Triangle is one of the major focus of the conference because it contains nearly 30 percent of the world's coral reefs and more than 3,000 species of fish—twice the number found anywhere else in the world.

More than 130 million people living in the region rely on reef ecosystems for food, employment and revenue from tourism.

"The influence of coral reefs on the economic and well-being of people's lives cannot be overstated," said Enric Sarmi, research associate at the WRI. "The influence extends far beyond the Coral Triangle to people around the world who benefit from fisheries, pharmaceuticals and numerous other services that reefs provide."

The Philippines, which has the most studied reef systems in Southeast Asia, follows the regional and global decline in reefs.

"Almost all reefs in the Philippines are threatened by local activities," the WRI study said. "Two-thirds are rated as high or very high threat categories."

In 2005, only 5 percent of the reefs in the Philippines were in "excellent condition," said Rosario Anos and Wildlife Bureau Director Theodore Lim, who represented the report on the Philippines' coral reef conditions in a meeting during the symposium.

World state

But as of 2010, only 1 percent of Philippine reefs were in pristine condition, 26 percent were in poor condition. "It makes me cry," Lim said in her report.

Like the rest of Southeast Asian countries, the Philippines is struggling with controlling illegal fishing, oil spills and hazardous waste from agricultural, and industry. Sedimentation from mining is also becoming a major problem, Lim said.

These issues are amplified by the growth in population in the Philippines' coastal areas, she said.

Climate changes is also destroying the country's reefs. In 2010, a widespread coral bleaching event, which is triggered by warmer water temperatures, happened in the Philippines.

If the public does not and the private sector failed to deal with these issues, about 85 percent of the Philippines' reef ecosystems would be in poor condition by 2020, Lim said.

Bleak future

The Philippines face a bleak future because the degradation of their country's coral reefs has an impact on food security and overall economic well-being.

Filipinos are highly dependent on the seas, with 40 million of them living on the coasts. Seafood provides Filipinos much of their protein needs.

The loss and reversed tourism are also major foreign exchange earners for the country, while coastal tourism and coastal gas are emerging sources of income for the government.

The effects of the destruction of the country's coral reefs are now felt in the drop in the yield and size of fish stocks, Lim said. Fishermen have been catching less and less commercially valuable fish species such as groupers and snappers, Lim said.

Impact closed season

Local and foreign scientists urged the Philippines and other Coral Triangle countries to build more and bigger marine protected areas. They said managing fishing areas by imposing closed seasons, establishing "no-take areas" where fishing is not allowed, and going with fish-friendly methods could help restore coral reefs and increase fish stocks.

In fact, less than 1 percent of the protected areas in the Coral Triangle is effective in averting coral degradation, the WRI study said.

Alex Wilde, a senior scientist at The Nature Conservancy who has done work in coastal Philippines, said that "wholesale" is still room for improvement in increasing the effectiveness of marine protected areas, especially large ones that require significant resources to manage. A lot of progress has been made in building up awareness about reef protection at the local level, and a lot of marine protected areas with the tools and resources to manage the reefs than they depend on."

Wake-upper: Pagcor cuts billion-peso coffee expenses by half

From page A1

"Yes, the cost of coffee has gone down because we now hold coffee breaks from Tagaytay City instead of in hotels and [have] ongoing concessionaires," Bautista said in senate views. "Our expenses went down from P100 million a year to just around P46 million to P50 million," she added.

Under the previous administration, Bautista said Pagcor doubled cut around P100 per cup of coffee served free to patrons in its 11 casinos across the country.

No more concessionaires

"Also, the price is P630 for a cup of coffee and P714.00 for premium flavored coffee," she said.

Bautista said Pagcor no longer got concessionaires to cater to coffee service. "We now do services ahead of the coffee breaks," she added.

The Pagcor official said several concessionaires were handling the coffee services for its casino patrons but that Pryce claims specially those got the biggest cuts.

While the concessionaire's gave base coffee to casino customers, Pagcor paid for it at "around P100 per cup," Bautista said, adding that free coffee is considered an amenity in casinos abroad and is meant to a come on for customers.

In his State of the Nation Address last year, an indignant President Aquino talked against the investment cost of coffee at Pagcor that the government practice dating back to the time Marcos gave Lucio Tan 36 slots in 1990 to 1995 to 18 years.

18 million cups

"At P1.00 per cup, that would be 18 million cups of coffee over the last several years). Where did all that coffee go? Who drank it?" the President asked congress. "Perhaps we can find the people who consumed all that coffee and ask if they have been able to sleep in the last few years," he added.

A day after the June, Pagcor chief Cristino Naguiat Jr. revealed that Prime shares figured in Tan's P4 billion coffee expenditure. Prime Media is owned by Carlota Cook Manotoc Tan, wife of businessman Johnny Tan who has ties to former Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino.

Tan's shares are in two spin-offs and the second nominee of the Genuino-backed party-list group Bantay Ilog. Bongo Jikan, which killed itself on environmental advocacy group when it ran in the 2010 elections. Genuino's daughter, Sheryll Ilan was Bida's first nominee.

'More acquaintances'

The Tan camp also denied having the "aroma" of Genuino and Pagcor, saying Ilan's appointment "accurate" and "legitimate business-made-strongly-acquired."

On July 27, Genuino said the President was "on the hot seat" and asked the current Pagcor chair to check for facts before questioning the Ilog-Napindan Channel project, why one company managed to run the racetracks to put up coffee shops in the casinos, because and the waterborne mass media based on feedback from the various "players" themselves.

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More Pinoys in Syria seek repatriation

By Jerry Esplanada

AN ADDITIONAL 1,300 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Syria have expressed willingness to be repatriated from the embattled Middle East country, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Citing a report from the Philippine Embassy in Damascus, the DFA spokesman said the OFWs repatriation papers were being processed by the mission.

To beat ISO of the would-be repatriates are sheltered at the embassy's bulletin quarters in Damascus," said the foreign office.

According to DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez, "The Philippine Embassy led by Charge d'Affaires Olivia Pulala, is doing everything to implement the government's mandatory repatriation program, which calls for the evacuation of Filipino nationals in Syria due to the worsening security situation to many parts of that country."

So far the DFA has repatriated a total of 1,734 Filipinos nationals/workers in Syria.

An additional 37 OFWs were scheduled to be brought home yesterday by the government, while another 10 were expected to be evacuated by a UBGAS team today.

The DFA has repeatedly said it would continue the repatriation operations for as long as necessary in line with the third pillar of Philippine foreign policy—the protection of Filipinos overseas."

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78 no-mining zones in executive order

From page A1 |

- awarding of areas only credited investors through public bidding;
- Three ownership of mine tailings and wastes upon expiration of contract;
- Promotion of a Mining Industry Coordinating Council to implement industry reforms;
- Ban on the use of mercury in small-scale mining.

On top of the protected areas cited by the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and the National Integrated Protected Areas System, EO 79 lists mining in these areas:

- Tourism development areas identified by the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP);
- Prime agricultural lands such as plantations and other properties devoted to valuable crops;
- Fisheries development areas and marine sanctuaries as declared by the agriculture secretary; and
- Island ecosystems to be determined by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through mapping technology.

Based on the MAP Department of Tourism calculations, these 78 sites identified by the DOT in the NTDP is no go zone. This, in effect, will be completely banned for mining activities," said Puje. (Earlier on this page.)

The new EO also announced the government's commitment to fully enforce environmental standards by setting up a multi-stakeholder team that will review the performance of existing mining operations.

The team, to be led by the DENR, is tasked with recommending actions against those that do not fully comply with mine regulations on mining and the environment.

5 percent royalty

Aside from widening the mining-banned areas, Puje said the EO would seek to recover state revenues from mining by including a 5 percent royalty in future mining contracts and areas to be declared as mineral reservations by the President.

The new order also seeks to increase occupational and applications fees, and to sell abandoned ores and valuable metals in mine wastes and mill tailings.

"For future, before, mine wastes aren't considered wastes. But, now, we found out that based on newer technologies, we can extract other minerals or other forms of minerals from the mine wastes so it is now a resource or input for new processing. Therefore, we put in this EO that all mine wastes, all mill tailings should be considered owned by the state and therefore, should be disposed of through competitive bidding," the environment secretary said.

Windfall

Puje said the government expected a windfall of P68 billion from the sale of mining wastes. P366 million from occupational fees upon filing (it used to be paid only when the Financial Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) was approved) and up to P1.6 billion from royalty payments from the existing 30 mining operations in the country by 2016.

"We would like to somehow tell the investors, the business community that we will respect existing contracts and, if they intend, we will provide their investments.

Puje said 20 to 30 percent mining mineral production during agreement and FTAAs of which only 10 were in operation. Of the 10, 11 are in mineral reservations and have been paying royalties to the government.

"If EO 79 will not affect, I think, the mining industry. It will only affect a few—those who are in the final stages of their exploration activities," said Puje. "This is the reason why the President said just a break. Stop issuing new agreements because they do not get the best or the optimal revenue for government," the environment secretary said.

Moratorium extended

Puje said the new EO would extend the moratorium on the grant of new mining agreements until Congress shall have finished the proposed revenue-sharing scheme between the government and mining companies, specifically the 5 percent royalty government wants to collect.

IN THE KNOW

OF THE 110 DOT's total land area of 30 million hectares, some 9 million ha have been identified as having "high mineral potential," said Tha Hibaya and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

As of January 2012, the bureau estimated that some 1.6 percent (around 1.14 million ha) of the Philippines' total land area was covered by mining investments.

As of June 2012, the country has 30 operating metallic mines—10 nickel mines, five gold mines with silver as co-product, three copper mines with gold and silver as co-products, two chromite mines, a polymetallic mine with gold, silver, copper and zinc as products, and an iron mine, according to the MGB.

In 2011, the country's total metallic mineral production was worth P122 billion, up from P113 billion in 2010. Gold production for 2011 alone was valued at P63.13 billion.

However, for the first quarter of 2012, the MGB data showed that metallic mineral production declined from P32.4 billion to the same period last year to P19.6 billion this year.

Nickel mines are located in Zambales, Dinagat, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur. The gold with silver mines are in Benguet, Masbate, Camarines Norte, Davao del Norte and Agusan del Sur.

The copper with gold and silver mines are in Benguet, Cebu and Davao Oriental. The copper mine with gold, silver and zinc is in Albay, while the metallic-gold chromite mines are in Surigao del Norte and Eastern Samar. The iron mine is in Leyte.

Mining contributed 1 percent (P99.2 billion) to the country's gross domestic product in 2011, according to MGB data.

Investments in exploration and mining projects have amounted to more than $4.4 billion from 2001 to 2011.

The mining industry employs some 238,000 people, said the Department of Labor and Employment.

According to the Environmental Management Bureau, there were around 300,000 small-scale miners in the country as of December 2011.

Contributed by Victor Pedroso, Jing-jing Catindig and Bianca Bernardo

Sources: Mines and Geosciences Bureau; author, Inquirer archives

Mining advocates like Gina Lopez cheer, but...

From page B1 |

78 location areas. Although there were applications.

Antimining activists, particularly in Palawan and Romblon province, said an alliance of mining-affected communities and civil society organizations covering 30 provinces in the country welcomed the EO "with strong reservations."

Even Allboy Jose Amy Salazar, who earlier warned that 40 provinces would go to court to question the much-awaited EO, said "the final shape and completion of the mining EO has taken a very comfortable approach toward the LGU's (local government units') role."

He said the EO hardly had a bite of the antidote of the environmental woes of the chief.

Salazar said the EO directed the President had replaced "the same boundary of executive discretion" but noted that the limits imposed by laws, especially Republic Act No. 7942, preempted the kind of reforms that could make laws change his position against mining pero en "Para EO is good but mining is bad," he said.

While the new policy guidelines stated that there would be no new mining permits to be granted, "in effect ecosystem" until a law amending the Mining Act was in place, the Palawan NGO Network Inc. (PNEI) urged Malacañang to clarify the order pertaining to applications of large-scale mining lists in Palawan.

The PNEI, along with other antimining groups, is seeking a comprehensive reviewing "ban" in Palawan, citing its delicate ecosystems and biodiversity.

"There is a gray area in the guidelines pertaining to existing applications of large-scale mining companies in southern Palawan," Elizabeth Mechaja of PNEI said.

She said PNEI would like the EO to categorically state Malacañang's closure to mining, in consonance with the order's stated objective to "support important national economies."

The EO, the PNEI said, was not clear on mining companies which were previously awarded MPSAs and similar legal concessions by the DENR.

Antimining advocates in provinces, particularly the Quezon Tayl Mines (QMI) challenged the effectiveness of the EO to address environmental degradation.

Nathaly Galvin, coordinator of the ABN, said the provisions in the new mining policy failed to address issues concerning environment degradation, human rights and protection of indigenous peoples' rights as the new policy would only cover new mining applications.

In Romblon, Romblon Governor, a bishop of the Philippine Independent Church and convenor of the Romblon Ecumenical Forum Against Mining, said the new policy would weaken existing mining regulations.

Romblon, for instance, has been complementing its own initiative ban on all forms of metallic mining and declared the entire province a mining-free zone.

John Brendan, spokesperson of the Cagayan de Oro-based Bishop-Ibaan Caritas Network and Forum Against Mining, said the new policy would weaken existing mining regulations.

"There is a provisional ban on large-scale mining in Cagayan but this new policy will nullify it," he said. This means that the provincial ban no revoke the ordinance," Mercado said.

The Cagayan provincial board passed an ordinance which imposed a 50-year moratorium on large-scale mining in the province. The ordinance was considered the first of its kind in the country.

Eleven provinces have passed ordinances declaring a moratorium on large-scale mining. These include the provinces of Cagayan, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Bukidnon, Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte and Northern Samar.

Calamares Gov. Ephraim Rivera who is on an official trip abroad said officials of the province would study the EO and how it affects the order on no antimine-banning large-scale mining in the island province.

Danilo Lagos, who chairs the Save Sibuyan Island Movement, said the EO would not solve the problems of mining in the island province.

"Some people will be happy with this provision. Some of course will be affected. We have to wait for the new legislation pertaining to revenue before we can approve agreements on mining products, two chromite mines, a polymetallic mine with gold, silver, copper and zinc as products, and an iron mine, according to the MGB.

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Sources: Mines and Geosciences Bureau; author, Inquirer archives

List of cluster destinations and tourism development areas

Largest increase into 20 months, the Tourism Development Index (TDI) recently rose to register most decrease since 2011 being central area (NR), central tourism (NR), peripheral tourism (NR), peripheral tourism (NR), peripheral

Ampatuan lawyers block bid of 3 accused to turn witnesses

By John M. Aurelio

LAWYERS representing the private suspects in the 2009 Maguindanao massacre are blocking the bid of a policeman and two others to become state witnesses in the gruesome killings.

Philip Ogilvi Kotran and Princess Angela Linda, assistant prosecutors of Sandiganbayan, and lawyers Zaldy and Andrei L.A., are asking a Quezon City court to junk the motion to discharge Insp. Ret. Abdul Ibrangan, Samard Canapia, and Talipao Dilon from the list of 196 accused.

According to the Sandiganbayan lawyers, Ibrangan, Canapia and Dilon are not qualified to become state witnesses and their testimonies will only serve as corroborative accounts of the Nov. 23, 2009 massacre of 57 people.

Kotran appealed to Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes of Regional Trial Court Branch 221 to deny the prosecution's motion to discharge the three accused as state witnesses "for lack of merit."

Early this year, the prosecution sought to have Ibrangan and company admitted as state witnesses, citing the "absolute necessity" for their testimonies.

Ibrangan is a police officer while Canapia and Dilon are militiamen, all charged in connection with the mass murders.

Ibrangan is expected to identify members of the 1987th and 1908th Maguindanao provincial mobile group allegedly involved in the massacre, while the two civilians will reveal the supposed involvement of other powerful political members.

The Ampatuan lawyers pointed out that the court has previously junked Ibrangan's bid to attempt to be state witness.

"The court has already made a final determination that there is an absolute necessity for Ibrangan's testimony to justify his discharge as state witness," Kotran said in a separate opposition.

As to Dilon and Canapia, the defense claimed the two militiamen are not entitled to be state witnesses as they "appear to be guilty."

Kotran explained that the two civilians, who were found carrying security force M16s, were among the first to be arrested after the massacre.

Dilon and Canapia were militiamen organized under the control of then Ampatuan town mayor Zacaria Sinsuat Ampatuan.

"Clearly, Dilon and Canapia were accused and principal actors in the Maguindanao massacre and are such, disqualified from being state witnesses," the defense argued.

NEWSBRIEFS

Report surprises Enrile

MANILA President Joseph Estrada has praised "objective" and "unbiased" reports that he had commended ex-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for the alleged anomalies in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) during her administration.

Estrada's statement came after Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile released a report that showed that Estrada had commended Arroyo for the alleged anomalies in the PCSO during her administration.

Enrile's report was based on a letter that Estrada had written to Arroyo in 2004, in which he had commended her for the alleged anomalies in the PCSO.

Estrada's statement came after

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Across the NATION

ARMM voters' list up marred with fraud

COTABATO CITY—The goal was to clean the voters' list, but the first day of the general registration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was marred with fraud.

In Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, Assistemayor Hussein de Villa, accused chair the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), said she found "young-looking registrants" lining up and registering.

"From the looks of it, they were not even 18 years old," she said.

De Villa said she even asked one of the registrants about his age, "and he answered, 'Dalawang, and said he was 20."

"To avoid a commotion, I did not insist that I can only observe, just like the registration officials," she said, adding that those counting the voter applications "should not resort to security reasons."

"Even if they know these registrants were young, they just accept and register them and collect the registration fee for validation later," De Villa said.

"It is very frustrating," she said, adding that what makes it sadder "is that parents are seen teaching young children to lie, and we are building a culture of dishonesty."

Some of the young registrants who did not have birth certificates were accompanied by their parents who claimed that they were of voting age.

In a school in Datu Odin Sinsuat, a girl first admitted to the registrars that she was only 16 years old and that she was there to register as a voter. But her companion, upon hearing her, said: "Sir, she is already 18 and she just gave a wrong answer."

De Villa also said she saw armed village watchmen outside the registration center.

Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Sixto Brillantes, who was in Zamboanga City on Monday morning, said they were expecting to reduce the number of registered voters in the ARMM from the 1.7 million to 1.1 million.

Brillantes, who left for Tawi-Tawi after holding a press briefing, admitted that some having problems with politicians meddling in the registration process.

"We warn these politicians distracting the registration process. Some politicians are trying to prevent people from registering in some places," he said.

He cited the towns of Datu Unsay and Barira in Maguindanao where politicians allegedly told election personnel to stop the registration.

Commissioner Armi Amemo said that in Lanao del Sur, "politicians bombarded our Comelec personnel with requests for registering."

"There were some personnel, too, in our people, warning our people that they were going to block people from registering," Amemo said.

But Brillantes said petitions for reclustering of registration centers "will be denied."

REGISTRANTS, including elders, participate during the first day of the 10-day voters registration process in Marawi City and Lanao del Sur on Monday, the first day of voters registration in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"We will proceed as planned and make adjustments later if needed. We will conduct evaluations in the middle of the 10-day registration," he added.

Datu Unsay Mayor Bernardo Abas said he is fully convinced that the military and police were deployed to secure the 10-day registration.

"Their focus is the security of the machines. Our machines are 19 security personnel, and we have close to a thousand machines," he said.

Brillantes said they have yet to announce security positions since the registration started Monday morning.

On Sunday evening, PPCRV volunteers Tonia Castrodes was assaulted by four women when the refused to give them PPCRV T-shirts and identification cards in Datu Unsay town in Maguindanao.

"When she refused, explaining those shirts were intended for PPCRV volunteers, she was attacked and insulted," De Villa said.

In Tawi-Tawi, Brillantes personally led the distribution of VRMs on Monday morning.

"Bad weather prevented us from distributing the documents and machines on Sunday," he said.

Maguindanao election supervisor Jocyce Uding Tago said they decided to postpone the general list up in all villages—Oct. 16 to 25—to allow voters to survey updates.

"We will officially start registration (Tuesday)," Tago said.

"The Comelec was supposed to provide generators but these did not arrive on time," he said regretfully.

In Northern Kabuntalan town, also in Maguindanao, Bhaya Rural Bilangilan said four villages have yet to see the first up-close to the absence of power generators.

Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said each VRMT has one generator accompanying it.

Sarmiento said the 9MM has no power generator with it.

Despite all these, Brillantes said the first day of registration was "generally peaceful and unexpired the deadline to be this way until July 20." (Gloria G. Aforque, Jeannette I. Alipala, Charlie C. Señase and Rizalde Aga Sinsuat, Inquirer Mindanao)

Davao cabs accept ATM payments

By Gerardine Lucero
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—You are in a hurry to get to work, hail a taxi and realize too late that you didn't have cash.

No problem. You can pay the cab using your credit or automated teller machine (ATM) card.

The scene is not from other homes. It is happening now in the city with the recent launch of taxicabs equipped with machines that accept ATM or credit cards to pay.

The Mabuhay Taxi, which owns a fleet of taxicabs here, has started deploying units with Point-of-Sale (POS) in the help of one of the biggest networks of ATM machines in the country—Megalink and Bancnet.

Mabuhay became the first taxi company to adopt cashless transactions in the country.

At least 20 units were deployed Tuesday. Three fleet boss Bristol with scheduled payment terminals.

Hans Tan, Mabuhay assistant manager, said the company wants to install card terminals in all of its units within three years.

Fraction for customers was favorable, he said.

"On the first day alone, 10 people rated using the machine even before it was featured to the news," he said.

ELAZZAR Macatine Jr. drives a taxi that has been installed with a wireless point-of-sale terminal where passengers can pay using their ATM or credit cards.

The cashless taxi ride is made possible by a partnership between Mabuhay Taxi, one of the city's largest taxi companies, and Chinabank.

Tan said point-of-sale (POS) terminals connect to the Megalink and Bancnet systems using the Internet Packet Radio Service system.

The same system is used by telecommunications companies so it works where there's a cellular phone signal.

"It's like getting in cash," he said. "Today almost everyone has an ATM card, and people are already familiar with POS transactions in stores and banks. Why not taxis?"

"It's safe and convenient to use ATM and debit cards to pay for goods and services. There is no minimum payment for cab fares. Fares if it is below P100, the transaction will still be processed," said Emilito Colcomenon, branch head of China Bank Davao-Lanang, is convenient.

In separate interviews, Bancnet executive vice president Avo Zuño said he hoped that other taxi service companies follow Mabuhay's lead. "We believe that the Davao market is advancing so fast, it is ready for this kind of technology," said Tan.

Mabuhay Taxi, which operates at least 200 taxi units, was founded in 1994 and had introduced other innovations.

On June 22, Mabuhay equipped some of its units with global positioning system devices that allows its dispatching center to monitor where the units are at any time of the day.

Inside the Mabuhay control or computer monitor, the computer operator only has to type the address given by the passenger on the phone and the system works down the line to locate the nearest units. The operator would then tell the driver to fetch the passenger. (Gerardine Lucero, Inquirer Mindanao)

Gov orders Vizcaya gov't shutdown

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Gov. Luisa Cuaresma on Monday ordered a shutdown of provincial government operations after a court ordered Nueva Vizcaya officials to stop implementing an annual budget that has been the subject of a rift among the province's political leaders.

Cuaresma stopped all activities by the province that entail the use of funds out of the P396-million budget for 2012, which was frozen by a 20-day temporary restraining order (TRO) issued on Friday by the regional trial court here.

During Monday's flag-raising ceremony, officials expressed concern that the court order would paralyze all services and transactions by the provincial government, including compliance of financial obligations and salaries of employees, suspension of infrastructure projects and payment of lease goods, such as the use of silencers.

"What I am worried about are the hospitals. How are we supposed to provide food and medicines to our patients?" said Cuaresma, a respondent in a suit filed by nine of 13 members of the provincial board.

The nine board members, who comprise the board's majority bloc, have asked the court to nullify the province's appropriations act of 2012, saying its passage violated the Local Government Code.

Judge Rogelio Gaspar granted the TRO that the petitioners sought, ordering the implementation of the Nueva Vizcaya officials to stop implementing an annual budget that has been the subject of a rift among the province's political leaders.

Cuaresma said the provincial government has no resource left to comply with the court order.

As such, all payments will have to be suspended, government vehicles cannot be refueled, insurance of the provincial jail cannot be fixed, and officials and employees cannot get their salaries, she said.

"If the order of the court cannot be thrown from the question, [retirement benefits of the TRO] we ask, 'Shall we still expect the work?'" said Maria Cecilia Tavallos, provincial human resources officer.

Workers blamed the nine board members who filed the petition, whose call was allegedly intended to pursue their political interests.

"We hope that we are not taking action again because we are also thinking people, even though considered rank-and-file employees only," Cristina Cruz, president of the Nueva Vizcaya Association of Government Employees, said.

Cruz said the employees association was planning to conduct a rally.

Gaspar asked her fellow employees to expect he would despite the risk of not being paid if the court ends the 20-day TRO.

Provincial Prosecutor Epifanio Galman, the petitioners' counsel, lamented that they were being blamed for the chaos that followed because of the TRO.

"We ask everybody not to overreact. By morning of the TRO, because it was never issued to send a bad image down of the operations of the provincial government," he said.

The province can operate under a reenacted 2013 budget, he said.

But Alexandra Dawanca, provincial budget officer and member of the committee said they could no longer revise the 2013 budget because the 2012 appropriations ordinance is operational, from which salaries of officials and employees, including the petitioners, have been drawn.

"The purpose of the law on [the province's operation under a] reenacted budget is only applicable where the [board] failed to pass a budget. That is not the case than we have right now because we have a budget that has been approved by the Department of Budget and Management," Dawanca said.

Kalinga gov suspended for assault on radio anchor

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Bilibinkalang has suspended Kalinga Gov. Jocel Rimas for a month for assaulting a broadcaster inside a government-run radio station in June 2011.

A three-page decision signed by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. found Rimas guilty of conduct unbecoming of a public officer when he assaulted Jerome Talungatayan of dzRK Radyo ng Bayan in Tabuk City.

"The penalty is good with a stern warning that other commission of the same or similar acts in the future will be dealt with more severely," according to the June 27 decision.

Rimas said while he still could file a motion for reconsideration, he was considering serving his suspension from office "As of now, it is to prevent [probability] that I will serve my suspension, as advised by members of my family and our political leaders in Kalinga," Rimas yesterday told the Inquirer by telephone.

He said he was in Metro Manila to get his official copy of the decision from the Office of the President.

Rimas said he would collaborate his post to Vice Gov. Allen Jesse Mangaoang once he and his lawyers decide that he would serve his suspension.

Talungatayan welcomed the decision, saying it proved that the country is moving along a straight path, in reference to the Aquino administration's campaign for good governance.

The case stemmed from an administrative case filed last year by Talungatayan after Rimas barged into the announcer's booth while the former was hosting his program, "Aganda," over dzRK.

Talungatayan said Rimas, accompanied by at least five armed security aides, grabbed his microphone, but in turn hit his lips.

Rimas's ouster, as well as the ensuing commotion, was caught on video that the station aired for its radio listeners during broadcast.

Rimas said he went to the station to confront Talungatayan about his remarks, which supposedly linked him to the alleged involvement guns and illegal logging operations in the province.

He, however, denied hurting Talungatayan.

Ochoa, in his order, said Rimas's behavior starts with his "unrestrained act" of confronting Talungatayan in a manner that was "antagonistic of the required norm of conduct of a public officer." Melvin Gascon and Filbarmor Hongay Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Truck falls into ravine; 1 killed, 23 others injured

CEBU CITY—A woman was killed while 23 others, mostly high school students, were injured when an open Sunday afternoon, an heavy cargo truck fell into a ravine in a mountain barangay of Tabuelan town, some 86.9 kilometers northwest of Cebu City.

Police and hospital authorities said Nenita Avendaño, a resident of Tabuelan, was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital in Barangay Bunakan, Bogo town. Avendaño died from internal hemorrhage.

Avendaño's husband, Avencedo, was among of the 23 patients who were brought to the Bogo and Tabuelan hospitals. The injured included students from Bongon.

Police said the truck owned by former Tabuelan Vice Mayor Hilarion Montes is used to deliver rice, cut drinks and bees in Bunakan. On its return, the cargo truck was also packed with passengers.

Senior student included a student because the barangay is around 10 kilometers to the town proper. The students usually go to the town on Sunday afternoon. (Ramonito Dapalinan, Inquirer Visayas)

Boracay welcomes accolade but seeks more infrastructure

By Mona-Ti Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Business operators on Boracay island have endorsed its new distinction as the world's best island destination for 2012.

But they raised the need for additional infrastructure and environmental protection to retain its world-class features.

"It is, of course, a very welcome development but it would be difficult to maintain our position," said Dionesio Salazar, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), an organization of business owners and operators on the island.

Salazar said the recognition given by the prestigious Travel+Leisure Magazine reaffirms Boracay's luster as having one of the best beaches in the world.

The island, famed for its powdery-white sand and clear waters, topped the magazine's 2012 World's Best Awards with a rating of 95.16, beating the popular Indonesian destination Bali Island, which ranked second with 90.41. Boracay ranked fourth in the same category last year.

The magazine's annual World's Best Awards rates hotels, islands, destination spas, cruise lines, cities and overall service. The ranking is based on an online survey among its readers.

Also rated in the awards was the Discovery Shores Boracay resort, which ranked 40th in the top 100 hotels in the world. Ritz-Carlton Hotel and Leonardo Spa resort in Asia chose 9th last year. The peak resort also bagged the best hotel spa in Asia award.

Rounding up the winners in the five island category were: Galapagos, Ecuador; Maui, Hawaii; Great Barrier Reef Islands, Australia; Seychelles; Greece; Kauai, Hawaii; Virgin Island, Hawaii; Bora Bora, French Polynesia; and Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Annual tourist arrivals in Boracay have grown consistently for the past several years, from 648,000 in 2009 and 779,000 in 2010 to 900,000 last year. Tourism revenues also increased from P11.9 billion in 2009 and P14.3 billion in 2010 to P16.7 billion last year.

Salazar said a key measure to be done in addressing the infrastructure needs of the island, which is expected to draw more than a million tourists in this year, is the need to complete the Boracay system to address the flooding in some of the island, especially during the rainy season.

There is also a need to develop the Tabon jetty port in Caticlan, which serves as an alternative jump-off point to Boracay during the southwest monsoon.

The island's road network also needs to be improved, including the completion of the circumferential road which motorists hope will address the worsening traffic problems on the 1,032-hectare island.

But he said the biggest challenge is to address the island's environmental problems, which are blamed on decades of unregulated construction and development projects.

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INQUIRIES WELCOME

Some 70 US Peace Corps volunteers pose upon their arrival in Manila on Sunday. They will live in host communities for two years.

New batch of Peace Corps volunteers arrives

By Jerry E. Esplanada
INQUIRY Newsinfo

Seventy-one new volunteers will make a positive difference in their host communities, ambassador designate Harry Thomas Jr. told the US Embassy in Manila announced yesterday.

In a statement, the envoy said the latest batch of US Peace Corps volunteers will "share their skills and build lasting friendships with Filipinos as you serve. Friendship and help build better lives for your communities."

Inspired by the late President John F. Kennedy, the US Peace Corps is to promote peace and friendship between the Philippines and the United States," the statement said.

The latest batch of volunteers, who arrived on Sunday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, are aged 22 to 68, with diverse experiences and educational skills and possesses spirited enthusiasm to learn about the Philippines.

Upon their arrival, the volunteers will go through an intensive 11-week technical training that includes language and cultural studies to prepare them for the job.

The volunteers will be deployed to different communities throughout the country in the fields of education, youth development, environment and health.

During the period, they will work in cooperation with the Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Interior and Local Government, and non-government organizations.

After the three volunteers who came before them, they will be assigned only in Luzon and the Visayas, not Mindanao, for security reasons, said embassy sources.

It's optimistic to the Philippines Harry Thomas Jr. had asked an earlier batch of volunteers to "know that the work that you will do and relationships you will forge will continue to build on the Peace Corps legacy of making a positive difference in this world."

Aiden Shana is Africa, Peace Corps-Philippines is the second oldest Peace Corps program in the world, according to the embassy.

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The Daily Gospel

Monday, July 30, 2012
16th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Ex 14:5-18

Then they [Moses's followers] say against Moses and Aaron, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to die in the desert? What have you done to us by leading us out of Egypt?"

To me, however, your call is tenderness and my angel brings against you. How long will you remain defiant? The call is yours, Israel, a call to return but make it. It is not God and will be broken into pieces. In the new life and, they will reap the whirlwind. Like the seed on all ears they will bear no grain and produce no flour or if they do foreigners will devour it.

Ephraim built many altars for sin; altars made him more guilty. I wrote out his laudable statements precepts of my Law, but they look on them as something of outside origin.

They offer sacrifices to me because they are those who eat the meat, but Yahweh does not accept them. He will now let his wickedness be remembered of their sins and remember their misdeeds. They will return to Egypt.

Gospel: Matthew 9:32-38

Some people brought to Jesus a man who was dumb because he was possessed by a demon. When the demon was driven out, the dumb man began to speak. The crowds were astonished and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "It is [the] king [demon] with the help of the prince of demons [...]."

Reflection

Today's gospel reminds us of the words and deeds of Jesus in response and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom, and he stated every sickness and disease. When he saw the crowds his heart was filled with pity, for they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the workers are few. Ask the master of the harvest to send workers to gather his harvest."

Reflection

Today's gospel is a call to prayer and a reminder to us that we are called to be instruments of God's love and mercy. We are called to be compassionate to the needs of others and to pray for them. We are also reminded that we are not alone in our mission, but that we have the support of God and the community.

Tel: (02) 687-7777 loc. 4

Correction

BITHE JULY 5 ISSUE, a photo caption on the front page mislabeled the place where the photo was taken. It was taken in Barangay Puerto—not Binaan—of Ipsarit, Cagayan province.

Readers may send their requests for correction or opinion to the Inquirer, 3rd floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 3rd Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makapili Street, Makati City, fax No. 897-8745/8748, e-mail address, dyalad@inquirer.com.ph.

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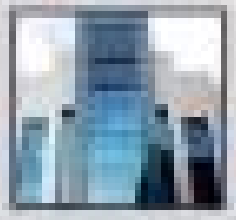

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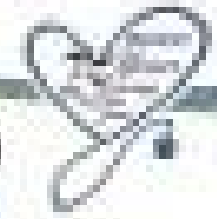

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Game-fixing redux

THERE WAS a sense of swift punishment to the way the Philippine Basketball Association swooped down on Jimrito Ball owner Don Allado's supposedly drunken tirade on Twitter on game-fixing. And that can be interpreted two ways.

First, the PBA was putting its foot down on statements that would erode the public's faith in it and tarnishing persistent rumors of plots to control the outcome of games and tournaments. Instead, Allado's allegations on Twitter may actually be more than ramblings of a now loser, and by shooting the messenger, the PBA was hoping that the rantings would die as well.

EDITORIAL

There is sufficient reason to support either school of thought.

The PBA, Asia's first play-for-pay basketball league, has always been conscious of the image it projects to its legions of fans. Coaches have in fact been fined for post-game remarks that question the officiating. And nothing destroys public perception of the PBA more than allegations that reek the very core of its existence. Now a multimillion-peso industry, the PBA is the leading source of live sports entertainment in the country. And unfortunately, unlike in professional wrestling, the entertainment half of the equation suffers when the sporting half is put under suspicion.

That was exactly what Allado did in saying that there was game-fixing on July 3, when his team lost to Powerade. By the time he deleted his tweets, publicly apologized, and claimed that he was under the influence when he went on his rant, the damage had been done.

This is not the first time game-fixing allegations were thrown the PBA's way. Any sport with a very public tongue will have to deal with such a controversy. Allado's accusation, however, was grave. He did not talk about a single player dropping games or teams paying off the refs. He did not talk about players sharing points to beat the spread. He accused the PBA itself of manipulating not just games but also tournaments. He did not set out to destroy the public's faith in one player or one team. He went after the league itself.

"Yes the guy that says what others can't. #PBA games are fixed. They control who is in & who is out. It's a disgrace to be in this league. I can accept losing to teams. But I can't accept losing force of referees..." Allado had posted in his Twitter account. But barely 48 hours later he retracted his statements. PBA Commissioner Chito Salud promptly came down hard on the player: a fine of P500,000 and a one-conference ban. Count the salary and potential bonuses Allado would have scored out on during that ban, and his bank account would have taken a huge hit. The man never had a chance. He was sunk when he appeared before Salud with no proof of his game-fixing claim. And very few believed that he had proof.

Game-fixing is a complex, multilayered activity that leaves no paper trail, only dead ends. The bygones should know. In July 2008 it ran a 3-part report on game-fixing in the collegiate leagues, and the only evidence gathered to prove that the practice existed came from eyewitness accounts. Players tolerated receiving payoffs on the condition of anonymity. But there were no receipts, no signed checks. It would be very difficult for the syndicates to infiltrate the PBA. Players are getting paid so much that "lowering" its professionals would be counterproductive.

Still, there are those who will exercise the other possibility: that the PBA rushed to its judgment because it did not want light to be shed on the purported shadowy activities. Whatever the case, Allado will certainly not be the last person to question the outcome of games. This is, after all, the post-apocalyptic era of the PBA, when it's no longer about individual ball clubs chasing trophies. There are two moneyed groups that own multiple squads and a few Mid Majors hoping to bring down those establishments. And every time the big teams triumph, there will always be allegations of manipulations, of the league's tournament authorities being in the pocket of those squads.

The House of Representatives' committee on sports and development made noises about conducting an inquiry if it was dissatisfied with the PBA's own probe, but Allado's public retraction would appear to close this chapter. Yet not even the heaviest of penalties can hush the whisper of game-fixing. How to put an end to the rumor? As the Allado incident showed, it is proving that the practice exists.

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One leg short

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THE PHILIPPINES is one of the world's major development puzzles," then UP School of Economics professor Gerardo Sicat wrote in 2003. Today, Salinasan heads the National Economic and Development Authority under the Aquino administration. He has his hands full, even as Asian Development Bank conference held in El Nido showed.

If Filipinos are to break free of the poverty treadmill, the economy "must walk on two legs," namely, services and industry, says the now 10-08 report titled "Taking the Right Road to Inclusive Growth."

Here, the economy increasingly relied on the "one leg" of services. ADB's country director Nessim Jude and economist Nedo Usui zeroed in the forest. Almost 60 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) comes from this "one leg." Industry's share of GDP slumped from 39 percent to 32 percent over a decade.

Take business process outsourcing's tech record. BPO grew at double-digit rates. It recruited, say the value chain from outdoored call services to software development and medical transcription. "The Philippines is now the third largest BPO destination, after India and Canada," the ADB officials said.

BPO employs only about 1 percent of a labor force where 7.2 million are jobless and 14 million are underemployed. There are 400,000 college graduates. "BPO does not help the more impoverished or less educated... In the near future, it is unlikely that development of services, even with the gaming BPO sector, would be widely effective in bring the economy into inclusive growth."

The "other leg" of industrial upgrading and product diversification withered, confessors at UP's Cebu and business groups heard. For example, "the initial success in electronics did not translate into... more sophisticated segments of electronics... the country took through a process of de-industrialization from the early 1980s," the report notes. A useful footnote would point out those straddled the last years of the Marcos dictatorship.

Other Asian countries altered their develop-

ment strategy instead promoting exports and attracting foreign direct investment. Empty shelves from traditional primary sector to modern industry. Structural revamp sustained growth and created jobs that shrank down poverty.

The Philippines took "the road less traveled." In the 1950s and 1960s, the country was a regional economic pacesetter. It had then "a relatively advanced manufacturing sector and the highest school enrollment."

In the 21st century unraveled. Philippine per capita GDP had dropped to the bottom in the Asean-4. "Now, even the gap with Vietnam is narrowing." Don't you the blame on high population growth. Four expanded. Malaysia had similar population growth rates the same period.

What happened? We went on a tear with our economic workers' "pasko" or remittances, which bankrolled private consumption. The booming services sector did not morph into higher employment.

Informal work and emigration remain a major escape valve for underutilized labor. "It is not uncommon to see college educated maids and college-educated taxi drivers," the report adds. "Employment of OFWs and massive underemployment mask the extent of domestic joblessness."

"Productivity isn't everything," we read in "The Age of Diminished Expectations." "But in the long run, it is almost everything." Philippine productivity, over 15 years, ran along a flat line. In contrast, productivity in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand almost doubled.

In the turbulent decades ahead, as in the past, three challenges dog the Philippines: massive unemployment, multi-paced poverty reduction and stagnant economic "A first step toward that long set-aside industrial development is to undertake broad-based—and the key areas] is "structural"...reforms.

These must address long-standing challenges, such as underprovision of basic infrastructure, weak governance, and an unfavorable perception of the country's business environment. "Faster structural transformation to generate the jobs needed for the ballooning numbers of working-age Filipinos."

Learn from history too. "The growth miracle of East Asian economies started in the 1970s. These countries shifted their development strategy toward promoting exports and attracted direct foreign investments. Those led to output of high-productivity goods of increasing sophistication. They also absorbed rural labor pools and reduced poverty. A growth miracle sustained for decades involves the continued production of new goods, not merely continued learning on a fixed set of goods."

Policymakers need to move beyond shotgun incumbent approaches. "Think of more focused ways to target interventions that would help new products. It is vital that an "institutional mechanism be created to identify specific product/sector interventions are crucial."

The Philippines has the resources potential to become a key production base within the region," Jude and Usui said. "Although growing labor markets in some countries, recovery from natural disasters in others, and the appreciation of the Japanese yen, there are growing opportunities for the Philippines to attract foreign investors."

"Public sector support is not easy," the study cautions. "It requires competent bureaucrats under a strong political leadership that places high priority on economic development." The administration's Aquino coordinators can count on a private sector that responds to stakes.

Structural transformation, by its nature, is a long process. It cannot happen tomorrow. "Success is not always as dramatic as it seems.... A future is within our reach."

E-mail: juan_mercado777@yahoo.com

Next victim

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I KNEW things were bad. I just didn't know how bad. Late Thursday's news brought it home to me. On that day alone, 36 road accidents took place in Metro Manila. Some of them involving tragic results.

The law of averages has caught up with us with the fury of an avenging angel, or an ark of the covenant, storm. One accident was pretty bad, involving a motorcycle with two riders on board rammed in the left, away from the lane reserved for motorcycles, and was hit by a bus. The bus driver would later say he felt the brakes after having run over the riding suddenly and breaking in front of him, but too late. The motorcycle slid under the front of the bus. The motorcycle carried a teenage of the unnerving riders being lifted off to an ambulance.

That was one of the 36 accidents last Thursday. The other is a head-on collision through the railing in a flyover in Edsa, in front dangling precipitously over the traffic below. The ambulance would later say concerned citizens prevented a more lethal result by rushing to shore up the bus before it fell on the MRT tracks. Passengers revealed that the bus driver was texting shortly before he drove into the railing.

There are a an alarming number for traffic accidents in one day in the metropolis alone. It confirms what most of us already feel about the roads: being vehicle is that they give crime a run for its ill-gotten money on the streets. Not to beat when you step out of your home. Which for most people who work is every day. The real tragedy about it is that method is unpreventable. The real tragedy about these accidents is that we allow them to happen.

"Nineteen out of seventy for most of these accidents, authorities say. And most of the humans, such as their behavior on the road, and, the boon to inclusion in the species, who enable these happen are to be found on motorcycles.

Fuel prices bring what they are, motorcycles have undoubtedly become the instrument for metropolis faster than motorcycle. Remember have condemned to the dark. They figure perpendicularly to accidents for reasons that are not hard to fathom. You cannot stop a vehicle on two wheels as easily as you can one on four. We're all they advance vulnerability, motorcycles are some of the most beautifully excellent things on the road. For reasons known only to them, motorcycle drivers seem to imagine they are exempted from traffic rules. Indeed, for reasons known only to them, they imagine they're in an action movie. It's gotten so people have told me that when they pass by a motorcycle and a motorcycle figures in it, they are tempted to shout out, "Motorcycle cop on locomotive driver!"

The motorcycle lanes have helped, but clearly much remains to be done.

Bus drivers are the other major bane of the road. They're the bane argument for gun control, allowing guns to be logged around especially inside cars being a guarantee for the destruction of their souls. They do not just cut you off your lane, they shove you off, changing into you brain the bus maze with the smallest means of the body, the bumpkins emerging into a crowd. It's not every day you remember that they're carrying a whole load of people while you're just one or two enjoying air-conditioning and listening to mostly Don Jaughigan on long.

Texting has made them vastly more dangerous. You would be an sympathetic about suddenly in you are about an's act and you could still share the life of that sitting at Edsa. Or that on that was commodity a bus driver while texting, which a passenger of the bus recorded on his cell phone. The solution is simple: ban the use of cell phones while driving. Other countries do so, imposing prison terms strong with fines or violators.

See everything you can attribute to pilot error, however, a great deal you can attribute to human stupidity. A couple of things I've particularly outraged about stand out there.

One is the bus/jeepney stop at the corners of Commonwealth and Tandang Sora going in the direction of Batasan. I wrote about this already some time back, the stop is located just before and not just past Tandang Sora. When the traffic light turns green, vehicles turning right to Tandang Sora have to fight off the bus and jeepneys going straight ahead, or indeed turning toward their left to get to the middle of the road. That is a recipe for disaster, and I've been amazed at how long and cursing there to wonder how such things have already occurred there.

The other is that spot in Sikl North where you take a right to get to Pajara between the annex and the main building. The level of the street is higher than the bus terminal, which regularly spits out provincial buses going up north. "Spin out" is the term, the buses coming off in seconds tearing out leftward to get to fit, to, unmindful of your existence. So while you're turning right, you'll often enough find a bus coming at you, having you to brake violently. I've had a few near misses there myself to wonder how long it will take before a major collision happens. It's there responsibility. It's sheer madness.

Anyone we need to educate this country on traffic rules we need to enforce it properly, not half-heartedly. We don't need signs that say, "Drive carefully," we need signs that say, "Pay attention, stupid!" Or something akin to the signs that say, "Moving forward this, infantry-ready." Maybe "Drive and love? Pump-kung-ba-ba." Or how about something to restore sanity back to the streets.

There are road accidents in Metro Manila in one day must suggest that the only accidental thing about these accidents now is that so far they've happened on somebody else and not us. Other than that, there's nothing accidental about them. You know they will happen. Forget that the next victim could be you.

Mind only that it could be you kid.

Harnessing our water assets

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

AROUND four-fifths of the Philippines is actually water, and only one-fifth land. This is premised on the 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. As an archipelagic country, the fact is of utmost importance to us. But until recently, when typhoons in our western seas put our territorial seas and outlying islands at the center stage of national discussions, we tended to all too easily forget this part of our territory.

Suddenly ordinary Filipinos from become keenly aware of our outlying areas, particularly the Spratly Islands (also known as Kalayaan Islands) and Scarborough Shoal (Panatag Shoal). But our preoccupation would have up to a rebuilt like China was those disputed territories in our western waters is not just a matter of national honor, apart from the territorial issues involved, but also of the potential economic and natural gas reserves they contain, also in question, to control over vital sea-lanes along which much strategic international commerce passes. Still other countries such as Vietnam and Malaysia also included, surrounded to think about the national and economic security issues we would be so well served by a multi-lateral solution marked by joint management of the disputed areas. The countries of East Asia in general share a common and collective concern over the area of the region for their significance as a frontier for trade and investment, and as a common and critical passageway for international commerce.

For this reason, this week's East Asia Forum (EAF) Congress 2013 in Changwon City in Korea is of critical importance to the nations that lie in or border the seas of East Asia. The gathering, organized by the Australian National University, is patterned after the first of East Asia Forums, in the fourth such congress held since 2003, and had been previously hosted by Malaysia, China and the Philippines. Over the same 10 years, Forums have indeed together established key to 10 East Asian countries, and has successfully forged partnerships across countries, sectors and various stakeholders for the sustainable management of the rich resources from that the seas of East Asia represent.

Like the previous congresses, EAF Congress 2013 is configured to perform for knowledge sharing, capacity building, strategic advice, partnership building, and alliance for dialogues between policymakers, environmental and natural resource managers, business communities, academics, NGOs. Issues of governance and protection regarding the Dozens of Filipinos, from island and coastal communities to top government officials, are attending this week-long gathering in a city that has become a showcase for Korea's advances in marine and coastal resources management.

When I was invited to speak up on the first EAF Congress held in Malaysia, I noted that the two worst performing economies among the five original Asean members (Asean-5)—the Philippines and Indonesia—are archipelagic countries. Combined, they have 14,000 islands (7,100 islands and Indonesia's 13,000), managing and unifying our respective economies have been much more of a challenge than they have been for our neighbors with more contiguous territories. Beyond the difficulty of linking physically disparate areas, the significant and potential of the maritime economy tend to be overlooked and neglected. Development initiatives may have focused mainly on landbased assets and resources (as well as natural, cultural and political) advantages to the neglect of the vast potential contributions of the maritime sector. But we previously made recommendations for raising the present status of the country.

And yet, water-based activities in both our seas and inland waters could profitably have widespread economic impact in terms of employment, foreign exchange earnings, investments and linkages with other sectors. For instance, increased use of water-based transport along our seas, lakes and rivers could induce investments in port concessions, facilities and services associated with it, and manufacture of water transport-related products, such as I often wonder why we can't do in the Pasig River what the Thais have managed to do in the form of water taxis or water transport along the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok. For a brief period in the 1990s, we too depended on the short-lived Pasig river-to-Pasay canal service. Before living the coast of Laguna de Bay and into the Pasig River, ending near the Guadalupe bridge. But the service met its premature demise—not because it was a bad idea per se—but because its reliability deteriorated and its user-advantage disappeared due to increased stops to the point at which it took as much time to get to the destination on foot as it did to ride on the boat. I am even prompted to lamenting about some recent "improvements" along the water. Earthmoving equipment, reportedly given back to Pasig river's original course, have been used to dredge a small canal there. The same can be said of the islands many more, or systems, which had reportedly been set to use for transport over seven cities.

Beyond what is reported and its related activities, the maritime and riverine economy also encompasses fisheries and aquaculture, recreational activities and tourism, offshore energy exploration and extraction, and a large number of other economic services. As an archipelagic country, there should be no question as to such water prominent place in our economy. That there do not, suggests that we ought to be more imaginative and proactive in making our seas and inland waters the assets they were meant to be to serve the welfare of all Filipinos. Otherwise, what are we quarreling with a water power over them for?

(E-mail: cielito.habito@gmail.com)

The unsung

FOR THREE years I had kept myself from pen and paper. After working the nail to a foolish dream. I took the liberty of throwing out a part of me I knew I can never be. But as I walked past a row of books this afternoon and took notice of a collection titled "The Best of Youngblood," I knew that I could not rest without killing off the strange nausea that had grown within me. This is not a story of triumph or hope, but a story of frustration, tired dreams and resolve.

YOUNG BLOOD

Kyle Gonzalez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-somethings and below.—Eds.

I've wanted to be a writer since high school. I liked writing assignments that required me to write multiple stories or thoughts on current events, or even personal insights in life. Back then, I found it relatively easy to write than to talk, so I was a timid child. And so I turned myself in writing.

When my English teacher asked for essays on the literature she told us to read, I always obliged, quickly and gladly. I never cared about what I wrote, and always made it a point to make it a little bit longer than required of simple writings, to a point of tension and carelessly. I didn't care. By my junior year I was keeping a blog that I named "The Confessions of a Schizophrenic." (It was made during the time of the movie "Confessions of a Shopaholic" and one of our batch became an anorexic disorder, thus the title.) I was so optimist at that time. I was sure that I was mentally ill because I knew we should appreciate life from literature, love stories and what I thought was the hope of politics. I wrote everything I thought was right and real.

Looking back, I was sure 95 percent of what I said was wrong, naive and immature. I was then pull I sure of needing to be happy and appreciative of life, and I was sure I was a wishful screaming. I knew then that I was unable to be a man sitting behind a wooden desk, with a flashlight that shone a dim yellow, making a broken-tipped G-tech I can't replace because I need to finish my deadline before the sun rises. Even now I can still imagine myself sewing my pajamas (what I thought was the most confidential and scrapbooking my heart with a hand full of pen inside). I thought that besides having a daughter and a simple wife, that was enough.

That's what I thought, until I discovered that it wasn't that simple. I needed to pick a college course. A lot of people make a course because that's what they want to do. I probably do that. That's not always the case. My freshmen in a high school discover and develop interests in the course they take or the perspectives of my parents, the capabilities I possessed, the opportunities of a specific job. Oh, how I wanted to study phil. Inosphy or psychology or sociology. They seem like idioms and make a living from observations. Oh, how I wanted that life! But then my mom told me that most of the time they don't earn much (if efficient, I apologize), and that the safest course for me was engineering (for my family at first). I knew much nicely and it came a great deal of money. Take it that's what the real world needs.

I told this story to a lot of people and all they said was: Why didn't you fight for what you loved? In my head I had much valid reasons, but I was afraid to be a burden at all. People thought that I should have packed my bags and ran to my dreams, like the stars on Broadway, and escaped being trapped in a horrid life. But no, reality isn't a movie or a novel where I can, and probably the vast majority of students my age, decided to make a decision between love and life. Between dreams and life. Between art and life.

The most wearing pressure and holding a broken pen died thursday, or so I thought.

In the middle of my first year in college I delayed my project thing, however much it cost me and my pride as a quasi-artist. With it went the dreams—pondering under the Moon, writing stories on secret journals and getting published. Gone. I had to move on.

With this death came my frustration with life. The world I knew fed me the dreams that I had clung to. It taught me that I could be anyone I wanted. (When I was a child, the promise of being a scientist seemed so real.) The world I knew taught me that I could be anything I wanted, and that they would all go away if I fought for my dreams hard enough. The world I knew granted wishes. So had it never caught me reality.

Dreams are for the unlucky. I can hated back then. We are unclaimed, crushed aspirations and dreams. There were 7.9 million unemployed Filipinos who had their goals and dreams to realize their dreams. For a while, these stories in 30-minute segments entranced possible—of those students who became multi-billion, the seldom-who-become multi-moms, undergraduates who became software champions. Dreams seemed eternally within reach.

But we didn't see the stories of those who failed, of those who fell to the mud and never got up, of those who hated but were never guarded.

With all these close relations, I was confidently say that no profession are good for a few but a curse for most. Most of the people end up in the middle, a part of what we call the ordinary and the normal. But they don't see the stories of the ordinary and the normal. But they don't see the stories of the ordinary and the normal. But they don't see the stories of

Impunity: not fun in the PH

LETTERS

LEO THAN a year since the killing of 39-year-old Italian missionary Fr. Fausto "Pops" Tentorio in Mindanao, we have the news that Philippine Governor, a 57-year-old Dutch NGO's community worker, has been shot by two motorcycle-riding men, believed to be soldiers' agents, in his office in Surigao City, Philippines.

Philippine solidarity groups in New Zealand are shocked and outraged over this incident. The Philippines has become notorious for being one of the most dangerous places for journalists and activists, with the hundreds of extra-judicial killings during Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency.

Such killings continue under the Aquino administration. Most with two European nationals accused in the case of extra-judicial killings under the Aquino administration, the government's failure to stop impunity is among the Philippines' top cars of the more dangerous places for foreign missionaries!

It's "not" fun in the Philippines!

The Aquino administration promises of economic business, with the slogan "It's more fun in the Philippines." But it's not for ordinary foreign nationals serving poor and deprived sectors of the Philippines. are targeted by armed forces that operate in defense of the interests of governments, mining, big business and landlords, instead of upholding the rights of the poor.

Like Father Pops who spent 33 years spearheading farmers and Lumad's programs for indigenous peoples and peasants in Mindanao. Governor left the comforts of life in Holland and chose to offer more than four decades of his life working with indigenous peoples and peasants in Central Luzon.

New Zealand Philippines Solidarity will lend a private action in care of the Auckland, New Zealand to take the calls for justice and for an end to impunity in the Philippines. We are aware that President Aquino has been invited to visit New Zealand. Unless he responds positive and makes apparent in the Philippines, he should not expect a warm welcome from New Zealanders when he arrives here.

The impunity must stop. Justice for Nilkhan Governor, Father Fausto Tentorio and all the victims of extra-judicial killings in the Philippines!

—DUDLEY HORTON,
secretary, Philippines Solidarity Auckland (Philippines Solidarity Network of Aotearoa), solidarityhelp@gmail.org.nz; CHARLENE WALLER, spokesperson, Auckland Philippines Solidarity, philsolidarity@gmail.com; BOB PEASLEE, convener, Wellington Filipino Press, communicado@paradise.net.nz

Great Filipino hero and chief justice of her dreams

MANNY PACQUIAO, to me, is still the greatest boxer of his division. Add to this, the title "Great Filipino Athlete."

Aside from his discipline and his known kindness to the poor, we all know about his becoming a born-again Christian.

And in the last fight against Timothy Bradley, he showed even greater courage knowing there is his heart that he will win the fight is confirmed by the loss from the spectators and the comments of responsible boxing observers. Manny accepted the boxing judges' decision with dignity, he never lost his composure.

God put Manny in the ring, and he won based on merit. Only "his time" he came out with flying colors! That is to say, maybe how a great Filipino hero would emulate me!

Thank you very much, Manny.

Regarding the search for a chief justice, I have in mind the process that pertained to the the post of Chief Justice. In a case of a unanimous columnists, and I think he would make an excellent chief justice. He is Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.—that is, if the Jesuits would let him go.

My reasons for portraying him:

1. There is very little chance that he would run into controversies or is an issue person.

2. He certainly has competence for human beings. Otherwise he would never have become a dedicated professor.

3. Having taught law extensively in their of the decades law school, there is no doubt that he has a vast experience.

Chief Justice Joaquin G. Bernas, Chief Justice. In my dreams!

—ALEX MIRAS,
Stylized Condominium, 9124 Ave St., San Juan City

Bam has yet to secure Kaya Natin's full backing

THE IMPOSE as the news item titled "Bam corners politics ahead of senate bid," (Inquirer, 7/3/12).

On behalf of Kaya Natin! Movement for Good Governance and Ethical Leadership, I wish to clarify that we have not formally announced any senatorial candidate aside from Kaya Natin cofounder Senator Pelaez and one of our Kaya Natin champions, Quezon Rep. Erin Tañada for the upcoming 2013 national elections.

Although there are individual members and champions of Kaya Natin personally supporting the candidacy of Bam Aquino, such is not, to our shall, to date shall it client that our organization has not yet made a collective decision on whether or not to support his candidacy in the upcoming elections.

Rest assured that we will inform the Inquirer should Kaya Natin decide in some can with a formal endorsement of any particular senatorial candidates.

—HARVEY L. KUA,
head convener (on leave), Kaya Natin! Movement for Good Governance and Ethical Leadership, harvykua@gmail.com

Bottom line in bus drivers' fixed salary

OPTIONS RUN drivers a fixed monthly salary is a step in the right direction. First, the will hence their income or their revenues like professional Uncle employees, though not necessary. It would go a long way. Second, such a benefit solicitations jobs and a regular work schedule, bus drivers can go home like regular employees, not like the rates they stand to be. Many retired soldiers who have put many hours home. How they have more time to bond with their families and, as some observers suggested, to take their much deserved babysitting duties!

Meanwhile, the bottom line here is not really the issue of giving what the drivers deserve or but what passengers deserve, a better and safer commute to and from work. Whether or not the scheme will work depends on the strict enforcement of traffic rules and the cooperation of the ruling public. Unless commuters do a little legwork and start their by making it a point to make a bus choice the streets bus stop and or terminal, the scheme is bound to fail. Buses will still be stopped in their down or stop to pick up fare passengers who are "idling power" along avenues like Ayala and Commonwealth for a public ride.

To solve the bus drivers' presence of picking up passengers in the wrong places, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority should construct more strategically located bus stops and impose deterrence to counter the simple rule and refrain from picking up passengers just anywhere.

—FERRYZ L. PEDROSO,
jagodcrabs@gmail.com

DepEd officials need to be educated

DEPED ALLOW me to react to the article titled "DepEd upholds IST stand vs Gov. Sandoval Gutierrez" (Inquirer, 6/19/12).

It disturbs me to realize that a high-ranking executive of the Commission on Higher Education seems unable to comprehend what he reads, when reading and comprehension are very basic skills on much lower in libraries School of Quezon City we really as the pre-school levels. Judge Vicente, CHED's executive director, wanting to say published emphasis against Michael Anthony Nacu, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas (UST), and that "he was not an official UST Ati-Atihan contact center" solutions, when it ignored Gov. Inquirer since the Young Dependent Youth Leadership Summit Summit Education Department and Administrative Program".

Then he completely missed the point of my statement. Since I've heard, not since but twice, not once but two requests for information and or from the LBC counter service is different and again in March of 2011. My second complaint: the glaring ignorance that this "dean" of a "Center of Excellence" did to me after Nacu disappeared and inconsistent application for media- was in the Envoy as quoted for re- source rather than that Nacu must have told he is not answerable for his actions. Moreover, executive Director Jose Leo Fernandez of the CHED's Group. Other idea added, the note wrong for her unsolicited information: "These colleges and universities are not using the passport as their diploma mill. If an applicant was informed, maybe he was not qualified."

Means on these were officials for- coming to the air and subway of Nacu. What he did to me his- making to do with the con bull in- to of "academic freedom" which, in an ideal world of meaning job- officials and saving college down, does not give the right to do what is wrong. It does not con- fer blanket authority to be heedless and rude. Freedom be achieve- ed. Since violated the rules of good manners and right conduct, of etiquette and of simple civility. Lacking these basic bedrocks of civilized society, how can we have the pronouncements re- lated to instruction of higher learning?

The following, I repeat, should be lessened as ready as kinder- garten by those who aspire to grow up to be high-ranking public officials and college deans. Lessons to be answered, especially if they have had been sent to you years: we cannot be humble and we let all those rules behind our manners go into our little heads only to muck- dle and befuddle, it is the weak and the helpless who ought to be defended and helped against the already strong and powerful, we must on very we transgressions we have committed, intentionally or otherwise.

In the end, it one, all the parents and all the kings that walked the shackebroad of this world will be placed side by side in the dust dark hun of Pastel Broken- ing by the knowing Pencil of God. Then there are nothing but paper- wates that made no happiness and selfless and unselfish of men. It is, on doubt, that will endure to and will all and exactly what we did and what we have while our kind. All else is vanity, a fading flower of a dying summer.

—STEVENSON TALBOM III,
academic supervisor, the late School of Quezon City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to its Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Rigor and Alexander Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to 896-6160, 897-4795, 897-4796, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The DOTC is inviting interested providers to participate in the open and transparent bidding for THE SUPPLY OF ONE (1) LOT OF PCG DISASTER RESPONSE EQUIPMENT

DOTC
Ligtas, Maasahan at Abot Kayat

INVITATION TO BID
P521M PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD
RESCUE EQUIPMENT

This procurement will include that each of the 117 detachments of the PCG will have at least one Aluminum Boat with the corresponding set of rescue equipment. AFAD PCG stations will also have at least one Aluminum and one Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats. Each rescue boat will be equipped with the following: 2 units Hi-Powered Marine Type Radio; 2 units Operators' Life Vests; 4 units of Common Life Vests; 1 Megaphone; and 4 units of Flares.

1

300 Units
ALUMINUM V-SHAPED HULL BOATS
6.5m in length, draft of 0.6m, minimum payload of 1100 kgs. Aluminum thickness sides 5mm Bottom 6mm, capable of carrying 10 persons, trailer included, 60HP Propulsion, Inline 2-cylinder Direct Injection type of engine, and compliant with EPA, CARB 3 STAR European Union emissions standard.

2

81 Units
RIGID HULL INFLATABLE BOATS (RHIB)
6.5m / 7.9 m in length, overall beam of 2.82m/2.96m, tube diameter of 0.48m/0.52m, minimum payload of 1100 kgs, capable of carrying 8 persons, with 1050D polyester Hypalon/Neoprene main buoyancy tubes, 3MM/5 baffles, inflatable canopy, trailer included, 2 x 150HP power, with a maximum outboard engine weight of 300 kg, with 1 inflight canopy mount, and 3 inflation valves, with Water Ballast System.

3

50 Units
WARRIOR BOATS
6.75m in length, width of 1.65m., minimum payload of 910 kgs, capable of carrying 10 persons, trailer included, 400 BHP Propulsion, Inline 2-cylinder Direct Injection type of engine, and compliant with EPA, CARB 3 STAR European Union emissions standard.

4

862 Units
VHF HAND HELD MARINE TYPE RADIOS
- With transmission frequency of 156.025-157.425 MHz in FM mode (160CH), power supply of 6V-15V and IP67/IPX7 under depth of 1m/ DC and TX (SAV/W) <1.5A/1.7A, max audio of 0.5A, frequency stability of +/- 10ppm, temperature range of -20°C to +55 -4°F to +131°F, with dimension of 62x141.4x47.5mm, and weight approx 320g with antenna, battery and belt clip

5

8 Units
JETSKIS
- With overall length of 3.3-4m x beam of 1.3-1.6m x draught of 0.3-0.41m, a dry weight of 340-350 kgs, load capacity of 330-460 kgs, and top speed of 35 to 45 knots - Must have fuel capacity of 60 to 70 liters, a range of 70 nautical miles, steering port tilting, capacity of 2-3 persons, Grip aft deck for fast rescue, exchangeable protective hull, inspection hatch for quick cleaning of water jet, fitted with reverse water-speed sight and head lights, four-stroke inline motor, a trailer with shift and a rescue sled

6

862 Units
OPERATORS' LIFE VESTS w/ Survival Kit
- Strength rating of 150 kN/m with two large front cargo pockets with snap to use pull tabs to entry storage (12 square inches SOLAS reflective tape for high visibility, large cutaway armholes for maximum range of motion, large collar for head support, neoprene-lined throat collar for comfort and head support, three-bar system for custom fit

7

2,546 Units
COMMON LIFE VESTS
- 4046/NA type approved life saving equipment made of thick neoprene foam with PVC foam, heavy-duty front zipper and 2 adjustable full body belts for secure fit, 1.2mm neoprene outer shell with PVC foam, and wide side holes for easy movement

8

431 Units
MEGAPHONES
- Power output must be 22 watts peak, 15 watts rated, dynamic weather-proof microphone, high efficiency class D digital amplifier, must have a battery pack of 6R, Blue Ocean lithium polymer PN 0930 11 (VDE type) of 11.1 Volt battery charger must be 6R Blue Ocean battery charger PN 0100 with an input voltage of 90-264 VAC, 50-60 Hz, 1 watts
- Must have universal input capable compatible with all world currents with adapter plug, battery capacity must be dependent on volume and continuity of operations for 6 hours: 30 hours standby time, battery life cycle must be 80% rated capacity after 300 charge/discharge cycles; 60% rated capacity after 500 charge/discharge cycles
- Dimensions of: 12.75 x 12.83 in (31.75 x 32.6 x 21.25 cm (battery charger size of 2.5 x 4.25 in. (6.3 cm/6.35 x 10.79 x 6.35 cm, and battery pack size of 3 x 2 x 1.5cm

9

1,724 Units
FLARES
- White red light that burns up to 4 seconds, with night viewing of 10,000 candela, 60m in height, and equipped with water guard activation. Must operate in temperature ranging from -30 to 60C, can be stored at temperature ranging from -30c to +75c, and weighs 5kg (1.1KG)

Proposed or Projected Rescue Boat and Jetski Distribution

COAST GUARD DISTRICT	RB	RHIB	AFRH	JET SKI
Northern Eastern Luzon	0	0	10	
Western Luzon	3	4	18	
NCR-Central Luzon	7	7	20	2
Southern Tagalog	6	10	47	1
Palawan	5	10	20	1
Bicol	4	7	40	
Western Visayas	1	0	25	1
Central Visayas	3	5	18	1
Eastern Visayas	0	5	10	
Northern Mindanao	3	6	20	
South Eastern Mindanao	6	5	21	
South Western Mindanao	4	6	20	
TOTAL	50	81	300	6

Approved Budget for the Contract	Php P521,684,300.00
Issuance of Bid Documents	01 July 2013 to 6 August 2013
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	10 July 2013, 9:00AM
Date and Time of Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids	6 August 2013, 9:00AM
Cost of Bid Documents	Php 10,000.00

- Interested bidders may obtain the Bid Documents upon payment of the non-refundable amount of Bid Documents (subject to change) at the DOTC cashier. They may also request the Bidding Documents and obtain additional information from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2/F DOTC Bldg. Port Executive Service Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, through e-mail at bac.secretariat@dotc.gov.ph or the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (Philgeps), visit at http://www.dotc.gov.ph, provided that the bidders shall purchase the bid documents not later than the date and time indicated herein.
- Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in Section 23 of the RA 9184 and the Bidding Documents.
- The BAC and Project Consultants will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 10 July 2013, 9:00 AM and/or DOTC Conference Room, 4th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Mandaluyong City, which shall be open only to all interested parties.
- The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

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Drawings from July 10, 2013 at the PHILIPPINE STAR and DOTC Website at dotcbac.com, and published on the Philippine Daily Inquirer/Philippine Star and the Manila Bulletin on July 10, 2013.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

The persons and organizations listed are provided for information only. It is the responsibility of the prospective bidders to determine the general characteristics and conditions of the project as well as the technical specifications/terms of reference and project requirements in the Bidding Documents. In the event of a conflict, the Bidding Documents shall govern. The information in this invitation to bid and the Bidding Documents, for the avoidance of any doubt, shall prevail.

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoa

SPORTS

JAMES Youngbusband (right) loses his balance after he was challenged by a Kaohsiung defender in the night round that ended in 2-2.

Sparks gain Singapore Cup semis

By Cedelff Tupas

SINGAPORE—The historic run of United Football League side Loyola Meralco in the Singapore Cup reached another high Sunday night as the Sparks claimed a semifinal berth over a stubborn Kaohsiung side of Taiwanese.

Head-ball goals from James Younghusband and John Mercado helped the Sparks secure a resounding 2-2 draw for the second leg of the Asian Zone finalists, completing a 5-3 triumph on aggregate for the first Filipino side to compete in the tournament.

The win sent the Sparks, who wound up third in the UFL runners, into a showdown with Singapore League powerhouse Tampines Rovers in the semifinals, tentatively slated in the first week of October.

"This is a big step for club football in the Philippines," said Loyola Meralco team Randy Russo, who is also president of the UFL. "This sends a message to the region that there is a world-class league in the Philippines."

Both teams attracted the biggest crowd of the tournament as the with some to 5,000 cursing up. But the prospects already looked grim for the Burmese side after the Sparks scored a 3-1 win in the first leg Thursday.

Egged on by a huge Filipino gallery, the Sparks crashed up the early pressure from the desperate Burmese team, before cashing in on their chances on the counterattack to all but wrap up the quarterfinal tie in the first half.

Loyola had to survive a nervy fourth-minute scare when scoring series in the second half and also hitting the post twice.

"We're very proud of the team," said Younghusband, who was also part of the national team that stunned the region two years ago by reaching the AFF Suzuki Cup semifinals in Vietnam.

"We came into this tournament as underdogs. But we stuck together."

The Sparks calmed Davide Cardina, Wes Battaglia and Jason Glimar but Ryan Gonzalez stood out as midfield, orchestrating Eastbourne's most creative player, Emilio Matsui.

Meralco assisted on Younghusband's goal in the 22th minute, sending in early-lunged ball for the skipper, who chested the Eastbourne keeper before diving into an empty net.

It was Meralco's turn to score in the 39th minute as the ball bounced to his sword header off a Mark Hartmann free kick.

Blazers keep Knights down

Benilde pins 3rd loss on Letran

By Jasmine W. Payo

ST. BENILDE just added to Letran's early-season woes.

Axel Tolentino sparked St. Benilde's second-half breakaway as the Blazers shocked the Knights, 77-68, yesterday in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at Filoil Flying V Arena.

Tolentino posted 17 points on top of seven rebounds and three assists to help the Blazers pull off a surprise 17-point rout against a late-title that surprisingly skidded to its third straight loss.

The Blazers opened the final quarter with a 13-6 spurt that trained a 56-50 lead into a 71-58 gap with Mark Romero and Jonathan Grey joining hands with Tolentino.

"This is a very important win for us because it keeps our heads above water," said coach Richard del Rosario after his Blazers rose to 2-2.

Already struggling to recover from back-to-back upsets, the Knights headed into the game minus big men Jose Cortez, who served a one-game suspension, and Raymund Almazan, who sat it out due to an illness.

The Knights's loss came after their surprise authority against Perpetual Help (66-69) and the erstwhile winless Bulldogs (67-77).

In junior action, Mapua clinched its second win in three games with Justin Serrano rallying 19 points, 18 rebounds, five assists and two blocks in the 2nd Seminar (81-70) win at Emilio Aguinaldo College.

Ajay Mandanas scored 17 points, 11 rebounds and four steals to lift Letran past La Salle Green Hills, 77-71, for a 1-1 record.

NO, YOU CAN'T Kevin Ado of Letran (right) thwarts a driving Joseph Tolentino of St. Benilde in yesterday's game.

Nonito back next week, plans to hit gym early

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS ANGELES—Ronnie Donaire Jr. will welcome his new status as WBO and IBF super bantamweight champion with countrymen in Manila next week before he resumes training for a crack at a third 122-pound crown.

Team Donaire confirmed that the 29-year-old Donaire, nine bigh up to every pound for-pound list, is flying to Manila with the family of his wife Rachel.

But it's not going to be a full vacation for the Filipino Flash, who added the IBF title to the valor Jeffrey Mathebula of South Africa to his own WBO crown by unanimous decision in Carson, California, Saturday.

Donaire is supposed to start training early against Mexican Jorge Arce (40-6-2, 46 knockouts), the 35-year-old former 122 lb champ whose non-flashy style matches well with Donaire's explosive brand of boxing.

"We are going to run direction fascinating undisputed champion's. Maybe just two more fights and I'm going up to 126," said Donaire. "I'll go for one more belt and move on."

Donaire is under pressure to prove that he still has his KO power in the heavier division. He failed to score a stoppage in his last three fights although he floored Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. Jose Pimentel and Mathebula this Saturday.

Several big shots to the super bantam division are trying to take a crack at Donaire.

One of them is Nonito Nakiska, a 23-year-old Japanese former champ. He was at ringside Saturday night to see how Donaire fights.

"That fighter is what I want," said Nakiska (28-4-3 with 24 KOs).

Another fighter eating to get his hands on Donaire is Mexican-born Abner Mares, the WBC titlist, who came to the Filipino Flash, but the most impressive individual among the persons atop of 122 lb champions.

Blue Eagles still upbeat on 'five-peat' bid

By Jasmine W. Payo

AS ATENEO coach Norman Black talks the show for one last season, he believes his imminent departure hasn't taken the Blue Eagles' focus away from their goal.

"Right now, it's one an issue," said Black. "I'm treating this as a job that I have to do. Whatever the future holds, I'll think about it when I get there. My focus right now is still Ateneo."

Black—who's returning to the pro league as head coach of Talk 'N Text at the end of the season—said the Blue Eagles remain driven in their quest for a fifth straight UAAP championship. He hinted the nine-win of Kiefer Ravena, Greg Slaughter and Nico Salva.

"We'll try to accomplish something that hasn't been done recently," Black said during the league press conference yesterday at the new Mall of Asia Arena. "But we know it's going to be difficult."

Season 75 of the basketball tournament fires off at 12:30 p.m. this Wednesday with an opening ceremony celebrating the league's diamond anniversary.

"We're celebrating the emergence of the UAAP as the country's premier collegiate league, not just in basketball but in all sports in our calendar," said UAAP president Nilo Ocampo of Saint Benilde University. "We're also celebrating the rise of the MOA Arena. It's an edifice that will make the UAAP experience many notches higher."

Although Ateneo emerged as the consensus top pick, the coaches couldn't quite agree on the top five.

Hartford has also been tagged among the favorites after a strong preseason run behind last year's MVP Ray Parks.

"The league we can carry it over to the UAAP," said NU coach Eric Altamirano. "The UAAP is a different league."

La Salle coach Gee Abanilla said the Green Archers hope to return to the semifinals after missing out last year.

"Our immediate goal is to be in the Final Four," said Abanilla.

"All the teams are strong," said Far Eastern University coach Bert Flores.

Adamson's Leo Austria also placed his bet on the Tamaraws, last year's runner-up, who still boast a strong backcourt with RR Garcia and Terrence Romeo.

"NU has the strongest lineup. They have a Japanese player in every position," said Austria.

"We have a more experienced team this year," said UST's Pido Jarencio.

"Our goal is modest, but what we can guarantee is that playing UP right now is not an automatic 'W,'" said University of the Philippines coach Ricky Dandan.

"We'll continue to go out there fighting," said Ateneo's Al Vergara.

Last-minute SK training for PH Olympic archers

By June Navarro

AFTER winning the pre-Games training camp for the London Olympics, Mark Javier and Rachel Cabral will settle for a 10-day build-up in the bowling ground of the world's best archers.

Philippine chef de mission Mona Lopez yesterday said the two archers will leave for South Korea today for a training session after failing to join the Olympic camp that could have provided them a first-hand look at their opponents.

Lopez said Javier and Cabral, the last two entries in the 11-athlete Philippine contingent in the July 27 to Aug. 12 Summer Games, will shoot in different clubs to and rebound bound and before under the supervision of former coach Clint Jan-Jose.

Javier is seeing action in his second Olympics after vying in the 2008 Beijing Games while Cabral is the country's first female Olympic archer after Antonio Figueroa in 2004 in Athens.

The two qualified after posting strong scores in the World Archery Championship in Ogden City, Utah, last month.

"Because they are last qualifiers, we're just trying to make the most out of the time left," said Lopez, also the first vice president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"We're going to Korea for sentimental reasons."

Lopez also explained that going to Korea would serve the archers well since the weather has become unpredictable in the British capital.

"It's been raining in London and that would not help because the training camp for archery is held outdoors," said Lopez.

South Korea, home to the world's finest archers, runs two of the four gold medals on stake in the Beijing Games.

Jaworski can help restore old PBA fire

BARE EYE

Ricardo Trinidad

MAYBE only a handful in that press crowd in Araneta Coliseum on Sunday would recall that great basic Ginebra with an incredible motor-in-the-gut by the lead figure on the bottle cover.

It happened elsewhere, many years ago, at Ultra (now Philippine Arena) in Pasig, where Jaworski had to step out late in the first half to have his busted nose mended in a hospital.

When Jaworski finally made it back—ugly stitches on the tips jutting—to rejoin his team in the third quarter, his teammates were fighting desperately hard to stay in front.

When Jaworski—Ginebra rallied to overtake Asaroni (reinforced with patented coast-setting heroics to emerge triumphant from that critical battle?

* * *

Maybe it was the Tropics Nanaimoes, the University of the East Warriors, or the Philippine national team itself in a distant chapter.

When Jaworski, now 66, assumed the semi-mentor honors at the Big Dome on Sunday, his heroic vanity hasn't been outlived. There surfed in his eyes and he was overheard as complaining (in jest) that his coaches image had been put to severe test.

"It is your culture that the player we have trying out is someone who will have to fit the coach's personality," said Jaworski.

The role of great conversationer Rudy Salud, who himself was the Jaworski handcuffer petrolheaded to in full fruition), said Jaworski's temperity and nobility were the foundations that made the PBA.

* * *

The event was officially lined up the reminiscences of Jaworski's legendary No. 7 jersey.

It was in such a circumstances.

"In the first place, there's no way they can retire him," advised Francis Arnaiz from Cebuana, where Jaworski's able and most trusted backcourt partner has resided down.

There's no end to the Jaworski gossamer, to-mate said. "By his example, he taught us what it really means to have a dream, work hard and reach it," Arnaiz said. "I do not know of any body who has worked harder than Sonny in to the best in career."

* * *

Jaworski didn't have to be asked, but came to say with Evelyn, nobody would've been prouder than that human regular team fixture, the legendary nine-minutes Ginebra shooting squad by the name of Alfrig Lanting, a urban-to-hockey from Tondo and intrepid Big Odessian.

When Jaworski climbed on the first around him, there were no Alfrig Lanting.

One of Jaworski's Tondo-kick, a five-point heist, Ginebra (the Big 3) abrupt and three-the standing ovation.

There will never be another Jaworski, to the more way there may never be another athlete as devoted in the great Alfrig Lanting.

* * *

Anyway it was learned to be asked what the Big 7 was up to in this time.

Is he exploring the national political decks?

Jaworski was not remotely being vague about his interest as a comeback.

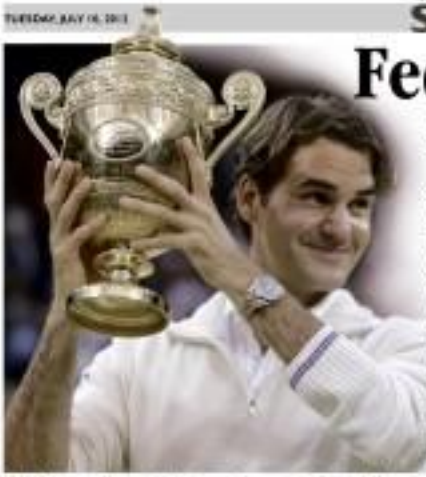
"I hope we will be given a chance to be together once more," Jaworski said pointing.

He said he hoped it would be a more reasonable association.

Knowing circumstances failed, he would hesitate to give Jaworski a chance to follow the league with his legendary spirit.

Could they appoint him as dean of decline time and discipline, to personally check the big guy-unsupervised-ness of other players?

Jaworski's answer: Jaworski loves to put an end to the days of the long pampered but shallow segment legends.



ROGER Federer raises his seventh Wimbledon trophy after stopping Scotsman Andy Murray. -r

Federer back on top

Reclaims No. 1 ranking, bags 17th major

LONDON—Roger Federer left the door swinging ajar for local hero Andy Murray in the Wimbledon men's singles final on Sunday then slammed it shut to win a record-equalling seventh Wimbledon title and, incidentally, return to the top of the world rankings.

The Swiss great, contesting his eighth final at the All England Club, fished with danger in the second set after losing the first but just when Murray looked like ending 76 years of pleky British failure, Federer gave a stunning reminder of his genius to win, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4, on Centre Court.

When a Murray forehand looped agonizingly wide after three hours 24 minutes of enthralling action, Federer dropped to the turf in joy just as he did in 2003 when he beat Australia's Mark Philippoussis to begin a grand slam collection that now stands at 17.

For the second time in three grand slam finals against Murray, he reduced the Scot to tears, although this month, unlike the others, was a contest to savour.

It was only after Centre Court's tumultuous ful was dad scores after Murray was begun to fall in the heart of the final that Federer took charge, sending to the wire that put him level with Pete Sampras' record of seven Wimbledon crowns.

At 30 years and 335 days, he also became the oldest men's champion since Arthur Ashe in 1975 and, to put the icing on the cake, Monday's ATP rankings will show him back at No. 1 for the first time in two years and he will equal Sampras' record of 286 weeks at the summit.

"I played some of my best tennis in the last couple of matches," Federer said after raising the trophy with his wife Mirka and giggling twin daughters Charlene Riva and Myla Rose watching on from the players' box.

"I've missed playing in the finals, and it feels like a grand moment. I've gone through some struggles, so this one comes at the right time," added Federer, whose last grand slam title was at the 2010 Australian Open.

For Murray, his girlfriend Kim Sears and many of the thousands watching the huge screen in Henman Hill under a flower of sunlight, cruel underfoot, there was just despair.

"I'm getting close," Murray, whose valiant effort was watched by Royal Box guests Prime Minister David Cameron, Ewan McGregor and Prince William's wife Kate Middleton, choked in unpleasant congrats.

"I was told after my semifinal that this was my best chance. Roger's 30 now, but he's not had five a 10-year old."

Reuters

Choi claims US Open plum by four

CHOI

KOHLER, Wisconsin—South Korea's Choi Na-yeon survived a penultimate-hole bogey to win the LPGA Championship by four shots after the nun to win her first major title by four shots on the US Women's Open in Kohler, Wisconsin on Sunday.

A commanding six strokes ahead of the closing par, overnight, Choi triple-bogeyed the 18th and did well to salvage pars at the 12th and 13th before regaining momentum to close with a one-over par 73 at Blackwolf Run.

The 24-year-old finished the 18th and 19th in thrilling resolve and shrugged off a bogey at the latter for a seven-under total of 281, finishing four ahead of her fellow Korean and playing partner Amy Yang (71).

World number five Choi embraced her caddie in delight before being showered in champagne by her competitors after becoming the ninth Korean to win the US Women's Open, and the fifth in the last eight years.

After being presented with the champion's medal and the glittering US Women's Open trophy, Choi was asked gratuitously how she had recovered from her triple-bogey at the 18th.

"I tried to forget it from there," she replied with a smile. "And then I had a really good (birdie) from rebuck on 13. I also had a really good save for par on 12 so I got some momentum from 11 and 12 and that's how I kept it going until the 18th hole."

Choi continued fellow Korean Oh Su-ri (at Blackwell Run in 1998), Birdie Kim (2005), Park In-bee (2008), Ji Eun-hee (2009) and Ryu So-yeon (2011).

Rookie Pieters tops Greenbrier

In White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, Ted Potter Jr. made a 4-foot birdie putt on the third hole of a playoff Sunday to beat Troy Kelly in the Greenbrier Classic.

The 30-year-old earned a spot in the Masters. Ranked 218th in the world, Potter overcame a four-stroke deficit with four holes to play. Bunching with his second straight 6-under 64 to match Kelly at 20-under. Kelly closed with a 66.

Reuters, AP

Caguioa steps up for Ginebra

EJECT Mark Caguioa's game to rise when the stakes are higher.

The stats exhibitionist "The Spark" displayed this anew last Sunday when he came up big in Barangay Ginebra's 87-81 win over Petron Blaze that sealed its bid in the PBA Governors's Cup semifinals at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Cedric Bennett came up with the game-winners but it was the Asiek-PBA Press Corps Player of the Week for the period July 2 to 8 who led the Kings, notching game highs of 23 points and six assists to go with six rebounds.

The performance came on the heels of a relatively bland outing in an 89-75 win against Meralco on the most of the Bungaran standard round last Friday when Caguioa only had 10 markers.

Still, Caguioa came up with two game averages of 17.5 points, 4.5 rebounds and 5.5 assists on average as the event considered back in the good work and reach Star Thompson said it is because of the 2011 Rookie of the Year's performance.

"He is more mature now," said Tangkay-son. "He is still the scorer that he was when he started out in this league. But now he is finding other ways to help the team, like scoring, passing or even rebounding."

Those victories pushed Ginebra's overall win-loss record to 7-4.

Dy, Olivarez-Ilas shine in San Diego Jr Masters

SAN DIEGO—Hotmakers by Jed Dy and Beatrice Olivarez-Ilas in their respective divisions over the weekend highlighted an impressive Philippine campaign in the San Diego Junior Masters a week before the Junior World golf championships.

Dy clinched another consecutive crown after last year's victory in the US Kids World Championship, posting a six-under-win over Jessica Ilac of Diana with 9-hole scores of 34 and 32 in two rounds of the boys' 7-8 years division.

Olivarez-Ilas completed a comeback-behind win in the girls' 9-10 years. She scored 33 and 30 in a record finish where she made an eagle and four birdies on the last six holes to beat Jocelyn Stanford of the United States by one.

BEATRICE Olivarez-Ilas

DY, Jed Dy

Team Philippines secured a third title after Princess Ingrid lost in a three-player playoff for the girls' 15-16 years crown with her 77-77 goal after a 1-0 for first place with Sabrina Ion of Australia and American Mina Clark in regulation play.

US-based Jeanne Fedilin, meanwhile, won the girls' 6-under events, prevailing by two over the only other entry in her division, Hilma Cheng of the US.

Dy, Olivarez-Ilas and Ingrid's other wins flown here by the country's flag carrier Philippine Airlines as a reward for taking a national qualifying tournament—set among the country's top bets in the Junior World golf set on 11 different courses in San Diego morning Monday-Wednesday in Manila.

Hernie Geonzon finished second in the girls' 11-12 while Asian Tagaloan and Lois Kaye Go placed third in the girls' 7-8 and 15-16, respectively, for the other top three finishes achieved by the Filipino kids carrying the colors of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

The other Filipinos thundered, however, with Carl Gopon and LJ Go shutting up the other four finishes of seconds place in the 9-10 and 13-14 age-groups, respectively. Ian Gundersen, the spearhead of the Junior World contest, wrapped 23rd.

CHAMPION GM Eugene Torre (left) awards the Girls' division championship trophy to Francesa Marie Magalit in the kiddies division of the 20th Golf National Youth Active Chess Championships-HCCDog, Ascigne a Filipino Grail's Ronald Suroy.

Team Globe among 4th Ironman PH participants

IF THIS all-time, at left-time employee of Globe Telecom, can tell to compete in the premier endurance event in the country—the 2012 Ironman 70.3 Philippines.

Composed of 11 male and 4 female athletes, they look part in such one-hour-up races such as the Ironman Cebu Invitational Triathlon, Subic Bay International Triathlon, SEA Triathlon in Subic and the 113-sided Tri in Batangas to prepare for the marathon's competition.

"We are looking forward to the challenges from the new race courses and have been preparing diligently since the start of January. Encouraging consistency and training," said Team Globe captain Evan Sanchez.

Forum: Ex-PBA MVP Brown, baseball finalists

FORMER Philippine basketball Association Most Valuable Player Robert Brown headlines today's edition of the Filipino Forum at Valley's Restaurant in Alhambra.

The session and box now 6:00 Sports Radio 958 and is moderated by Daniel Rodriguez, broadcaster and Sunning Corporation and Shakey's, will be the first-ever public appearance for Brown, the former star point guard of Jones Technical San Miguel, who is at the country for a weeklong visit.

PBA President Hey Bocaca of Tampa said the forum will start at 11 a.m. to accommodate attendees.

Also in the question are Tasers Cebu and Manila protagonists in the coming Baseball Philippines Series 4-Finals, officials of the Pacific Rim Baseball Association (Pbaa) along with talk about the open event of the All Saints Cup 2012 and executives of the Mid-Little Olympics and the 18th Homerun Invitational, led by Mio Ignacio, Pastor De Vera, Pat Gen Dey and Dr. Robert Cate.

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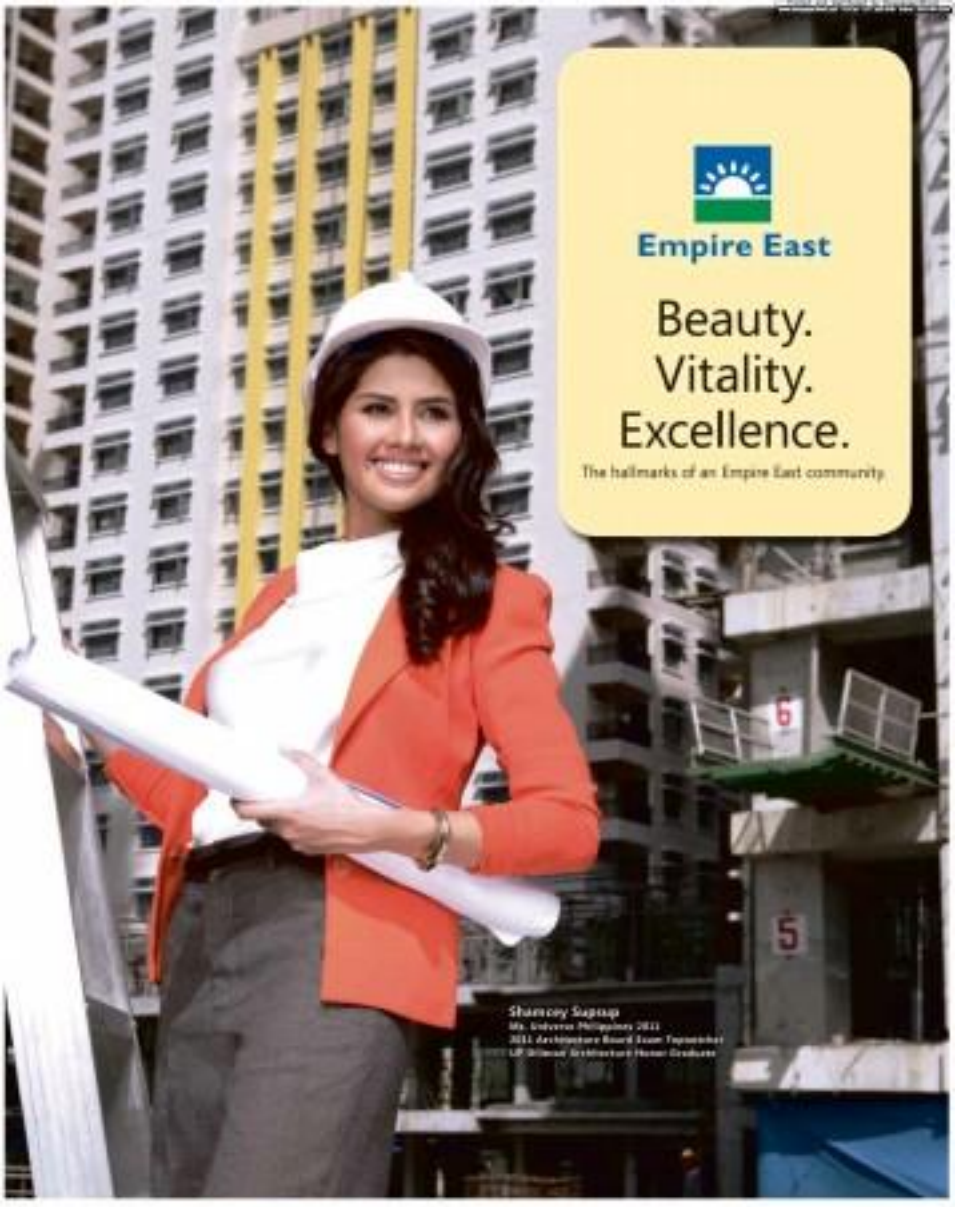

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DID YOU KNOW

A TOTAL of 1,721 fetal deaths occurred in the National Capital Region in 2010, according to recent data from the National Statistics Office. This was around 21.3 percent of the 8,086 cases recorded nationwide for the same period.
Ashabi Ubaldo, Inquirer Research

2 errant QC cops shipped to Basilan

Robredo issues transfer order for name-dropping cops linked to extortion

By Oreo Z. Pazolagas

TWO POLICEMEN who reportedly dropped the names of Vice President Jejomar Binay and Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo to frighten businessmen and jueteng operators into giving them money have been shipped out to Basilan province.

The order to assign PO2 Angelito "Bebit" Aguas and PO2 William Cajayon to the Basilan Provincial Office came from Robredo himself who said he heard about the two policemen's illegal activities from "reliable sources" whom he did not identify.

Aguas used to be with the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), the PNP's lead investigating unit, while Cajayon was assigned at the Quezon City Police District.

Robredo said that based on the information he received, the two used his name as well as that of Binay to extort money from illegal gambling operators and night club owners.

He also referred to a column which came out in the tabloid "Remate" on Dec. 19, 2011, in which Cajayon was reported as making the rounds of various ETV hunt and mass meetings pulled in Metro Manila and collecting protection money purportedly for the Inter-Agency Council against Anti-Trafficking (Iacat).

The hunt is headed by Vice President Jejomar Binay and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

The same column also accused figures of collecting jueteng payoffs on behalf of police officials including in the CIDG and National Capital Region Police Office. It also claimed that the policemen often dropped Robredo's name to his alleged illegal activities.

"I had received several derogatory verbal and text message reports about the misdeeds/activities of PO2 Aguas and PO1 Cajayon. I got to reach the PNP to investigate them," Robredo said.

"As part of its disciplinary action against erring policemen, I directed a transfer order to Basilan. Let them experience the hardship of living in the province," he added.

Basilan is one of the provinces under the ARMM.

He said he would ask the PNP-ARMM officials to "closely monitor the activities of the two policemen and ensure that they stay there and undergo proper discipline and moral value recovery training from their superiors."

6-month suspension of 2 QC dads OKd

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUMMARY preventive suspension of District City Councilor Rebekah Beatriz and Francisco Calalay Jr. who are being investigated for allegedly having ghost employees, is expected to push through with the signing of the order on July 13 by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales.

The councilors' liaison officers, Florabina Alcaraz and Vicente Rabanzado, were also suspended in connection with the administrative case.

The four are facing complaints in the Office of the Ombudsman for serious dishonesty, grave neglect of duty, grave misconduct, falsification of official documents, and conduct grossly prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

In May, the Ombudsman's Field Investigation Office (FIO) filed graft and malversation charges against them in the Office of the Ombudsman and recommended their suspension.

Morales said there was enough grounds to suspend the public officials for six months without pay.

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Baby of woman who cut womb open died of negligence

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE BABY of the 20-year-old woman who reportedly performed a cesarean section on herself inside her house in Sta. Mesa, Manila, last week was alive after she was taken out of her mother's womb, according to the police.

SPO2 Ronald Gallo of the Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section said yesterday that Reed let their infant investigation, the baby girl who weighed two kilograms was born alive but died of neglect soon after.

"After pulling the baby out of her mouth, the woman supposedly wrapped her daughter in a blanket and hid the newborn between her bed where she eventually died," Gallo told the investigators.

Asked if the information would lead to the filing of an infanticide case against the mother, Gallo said that investigators had agreed on a charge of abortion since the baby was prematurely expelled from the womb.

At the same time, investigators said they were looking into the possibility that a woman had some help when she cut herself open with a kitchen knife, took her baby out of her stairway and then went to use the cut that with a needle and thread.

According to the initial police report, the woman, a midwifery graduate who was abandoned by her husband last year, was alone when she performed the C-section on herself—a procedure she carried out without anesthesia.

Gallo said that they found it quite hard to believe that anyone would be capable of mustering their own body just to get rid of a baby.

In fact, the police have been unable to get any information from the woman herself and her relatives.

"They refused to answer questions and referred me to their lawyer," Gallo said, adding that the woman's aunt and uncle were initially cooperative with investigators until they were informed that a case may now be filed against their relative.

Meanwhile, the woman underwent psychiatric evaluation on Sunday although the results had yet to be released.

Gallo said that they were waiting for the doctor at the hospital where the woman was first taken to submit her statement on the incident before they file a case in the prosecutor's office.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHT FUTURE
A graduating elementary student of Metro Manila Islamic Institute reaches the Manila Golden Mosque Compound in Quiapo, Manila, earlier in anticipation as she waits for her diploma to be given to her.

You don't need religion to love your neighbor

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

EDE KLEIN in Cebu (ISC), a local religious sect, has won for the Philippines three Guinness world records. Largest dental health check for one day, the biggest number of dental persons receiving tuition in eight hours and the most numerous blood glucose level tests, also within eight hours.

Guinness recorded The three events during the church's medical-dental mission in Manila, one of Manila's biggest.

That the INC would break all records in medical-dental missions is hardly surprising since it is a church that cares for the welfare of its members, the majority of whom are poor.

The "love your neighbor" exhortation is very much practiced within this religious sect.

At the New Era Hospital in Quezon City, where many of its doctors are US-trained, poor members of the INC are given medical treatment for a minimal fee deducted in salary.

That's why it's not surprising that the entire INC membership votes as one block during elections.

Compare the INC's New Era Hospital to the Catholic-run San Juan de Dios Hospital on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

If you need an accident and you are rushed to San Juan de Dios Hospital, the people at the admission counter will demand to know if you have cash or you are insured or subsidized.

If you don't have money in your pocket, you're told to seek admission in other hospitals.

Many years ago, I rushed a 10-and-one accident victim, whom I chanced upon, to that hospital.

The hospital, which is managed by Roman Catholic nuns, was near the accident scene so it was just logical that I bring the victim there.

The woman at the hospital's admission counter asked me if I had money for a down payment.

I was a police reporter then and financially struggling, and I said I had none.

To make the story short, I took the victim to the Philippine General Hospital where he was promptly treated.

Looking back, I think that was the start of my alienation and eventual departure from the Catholic faith.

Don't get me wrong. I am not a member of the INC or any other religious group.

You don't have to be a member of any religion to help people who are in need.

I don't know if it's my karma, but I've noticed countless strangers who serve accident victims whom I chanced upon on the road, to hospitals.

One late night a couple of years ago, I came across a teenager boy who was driving a jeep that jumped cars on island at the road.

He landed on the opposite lane on Ortigas Avenue in San Juan City.

The guy died after I took him to the now defunct ABM Sison Hospital.

Fortunately I was able to get his parents' home phone numbers and so was able to relay the bad news to them.

You don't need to be a member of any religion to love your fellowmen.

Loving one's fellowman is inherent in every human being.

G.L. Monzon; 101

EUGENIA Lucero Monzon, the last surviving founder of Sigma Delta Phi, the oldest sorority of the University of the Philippines, died on July 6 at the age of 101. Space commanding the society in 1993, she was predeceased here parents of Lucero Monzon is Sigma Delfino, including granddaughter Bea Lucero, daughter Bea and the late Nitoy Monzon.

The sorority will say farewell to its founder and elusive member during the traditional funeral mass starting at 8 p.m. at the Arcadia Room of Tomasino Sky at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque. Expected to lead the Gabaiz a Bacolod columnist, Wilyssa Collin Monzon. All Sigma Delfinas are invited to attend.

Buried is scheduled on July 12 after a 9 a.m. Mass.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

Conformably with Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the JBC will conduct a public interview at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Floor, New Building, Supreme Court, of the following candidates for the position of CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES:

24 July 2012 (Tuesday)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
1. BAUTISTA, Andres B.
2. CAGAMPANG-DE CASTRO, Soledad M.
3. DE LIMA, Leila M.
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
4. DIOKNO, Jose Manuel I.
5. JARDELEZA, Francis H
6. LEGARDA, Maria Cristina T.

25 July 2012 (Wednesday)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
1. ABAD, Roberto A.
2. MORALES, Rafael A.
3. PANGALANGAN, Raul C.
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
4. ERION, Artemio D.
5. SARMIENTO, Rene V.
6. SAYNOCO, Manuel Jr. DJ.

26 July 2012 (Thursday)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
1. VALDEZ, Amado D.
2. VILLASOJUEZ, Vicente R.
3. CARPIO, Antonio T.
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
4. LEONARDO-DE CASTRO, Teresita J.
5. VILLANUEVA, Cesar L.

27 July 2012 (Friday)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
1. HERBOSA, Teresita J.
2. RODRIGUEZ, Rafus B.
3. ZAMORA, Ronaldo B.
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
4. BERING, Maria Lourdes A.
5. VELASCO, Presbitero Jr. J.

The JBC likewise announced that the following are applicants for judgeship positions in the following courts:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC): REGION III: BALER, AURORA (BR. 96): ALARA, Aurie Rose U.; ALEJANDRO, Josil Avery P.; ANCHETA, Maximo Jr. B.; BIENCES-LAO, Tracy D.; TAN, Antony G.; TALISAY CITY, CEBU (BR. 56): PALANCO, Jennifer Jo G.; CANETE, Leopoldo V.; BORDALBA, Cesar F.; CAD-ENLIMBORE, Lucila M.; MANAYON, Mario V.;

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT: REGION III: CITY OF CABANATUAN: ANICETO, Marvin P.; GALLEVO-LOTO, Rhea T.; GARCIA, Arnold A.; TANAUAN, Candid B.; CORBE-CARDENAS, Reinalie C.; BALATERO, Hipolito C.; DULNUAN-BRIENCIO, Wilma L.; GALIA, Melissa C.; CABREGAT, Frederick T.;

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT: REGION III: AURORA (CASIGURAN-DILAGAD-DINALUNGAN - MA. AURORA-DIPACULAO, another BALER-SAN LUIS): DELA CRUZ-BALATON, Jo Anne N.; ENRIQUEZ, Noelle Marie S.; GALLEVO-LOTO, Rhea B.; HERNANDEZ, Jonalyn B.; WEBB, Edith Cynthia A.;

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES: REGION III: CALBAYOG CITY, SAMAR: NAVAL, Carmelita M.; QUIBAL, Rolanna B.; SERRANO-MISE, Noel G.

The public may submit to the JBC sworn complaint, report, or opposition (in six legible copies) against any of the aforesaid nominees for the Chief Justice post and for judgeship not later than 28 July 2012 (Friday).

10 July 2012.

ENRIQUETA E. VIDAL
Clerk of Court &
JBC Ex Officio Secretary

Man hurt as delivery truck rams center island

By Mike Frankie

A 22-WHEEL truck rammed into the center island on Quezon Highway in Makati City around 11 a.m. yesterday, its trailer skidding sideways to occupy the busy thoroughfare's three lanes and damaging nearby trees and roads, and its cargo which crowded to be at Magallanes.

"The driver alleged that the cause has which dashed the trailer to the truck, broke which led to the truck," cops investigator PO2 Cesar Ramos said.

The driver's helper suffered leg injuries and was taken to Makati Medical Center.

The truck carried empty bottles of a popular brand of brandy and boxes of cases of beer. Citizens prevented from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Barangay San Antonio, except the cases bits of broken glass before allowing vehicles to use the road.

SLAMS Another view of the portion of Quezon Highway near Zobel Roxas Street in Makati City after a hard braking the truck to the trailer breaks, causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle.

5-year-old girl battles leukemia

By Santiago B. Alcantara

AT FIRST glance, Ayanah Nicole Gelle seems like a normal, healthy 5-year-old. This is far from the case, however, as it has been more than a year since she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

AYA

Her mother, Marian, told the Inquirer that doctors at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) had been recommended to her for helping treat daughter patients on blood samples despite her ailment.

The cause, however, cannot be said of her blood as her hemoglobin levels just keep dropping.

"My daughter was last released from PGH on her Father's Day—she underwent a blood transfusion because she had a fever for three days," said Marian.

She added that doctors had told her that her daughter needs to undergo chemotherapy and a blood transfusion once a month to keep her condition from getting worse.

Early reports confirm the family P20,000 as support the said her husband, Ferdinand, a delivery truck driver, are trying their best to shoulder the needs being met with child.

"I feel for her every time she becomes unhealthy after a chemotherapy session. It's her body's way of responding to the medicines. I just hug her. I love her all the more," Marian said.

Readers may contact Marian at (632) 4496151. Donations can be deposited in her BDO current account with account number 1340049520.

2 QC dads' suspension OKd

From page A-9

She said there are "strong evidence of guilt" because the committee had reviewed the sworn statements of the Legislative Department. They had also confirmed that three employees had worked on the days.

Member said that showed that they had knowingly or willfully used their positions to get the Quezon City government to hire those employees to get their salaries, wages and other compensation for their own personal gain.

Abrenio and Bermundo, on the other hand, allowed themselves to be used by the councilors when they affirmed and executed the salaries and wages of the alleged ghost employees, Morales added.

The employees, who had no habitual records on National Bureau of Investigation records, worked in districts one distances, field investigators and office aides.

MetroBriefs

4 men nabbed for attack on ex-Marinduque mayor

TWO men are now facing charges of attempted homicide and serious physical injuries after beating up and stabbing ex-Boac Mayor Carmencita Reyes-Carrion (City-to-Marinduque City) in Barangay Tumagabok in the South Lagoa Expressway. The police said Eddie JOHNSON, Marlon Sales, Tirso Bellen and Rolly Salayon roughed up former Marinduque Mayor Rodolfo Carrion Jr. on Saturday night after he warned them against making too much noise while having a celebration inside the hiring Compound on Quirino Avenue Road in Antipolo, Marinduque City. "Carrion was fleeing in escaping the killing Gene pound, accused by his friends, when the incident happened. He spotted the four outside the Puerto Rico Barangay assembly compound around 11:30 p.m. on Saturday night," Ocampo, Spokesman Martinez, head of the intelligence unit of the Marinduque police said in a telephone interview. Martinez said that Carlos explained at the time for being noisy, despite a curfew they implement inside the compound. "It was then when the incident took place. The four subordinates of Carlos' expressed and began to beat him." Martinez said. While beating him up, Reyes took out a fan knife and stabbed the victim Carlos. "The former mayor tried to fend off the attack, and in the process he was stabbed in the arm," Martinez said. The four escaped but through they were later arrested by Executive

Nathaniel P. Balisacan

Balderia concert at CCP on July 11

CHARLES EL Calderia, award-winning pianist and Ateneo de Manila, opens the Cultural Center of the Philippines' (CCP) new Special Concert Series at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino on Wednesday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m. She will perform works of Ravel, Debussy, Debussy, Fort and Albeniz. A two-time first prize winner of the National Music Competitions for Young Artists, Balderia has also earned laurels and awards in the San Antonio Abbas Band, the best and Sabala international piano competitions. A UP summa cum laude graduate, Balderia pursued her master's and doctorate at the University of Michigan. At present, she directs the piano program at Pamantasan ng Maynila (University of Manila), the Holistic call the CCP at 832-1125 loc. 1406/1408 or 832-3704 or Ticketworld at 891-9999.

Egypt leader reconvenes dissolved parliament

CAIRO—President Mohammed Morsi of Egypt on Sunday unexpectedly ordered the country's Islamist-led Parliament to reconvene, challenging decisions by Egypt's most powerful generals and judges to dissolve the legislative body.

Morsi's decree appeared to be a bold effort to claim authority for his 10-day-old presidency, and it raised the specter of a new confrontation between the president and his Islamist supporters on the one hand, and the military council and Egypt's highest court on the other. The announcement sowed confusion in Cairo, not least over whether Morsi had the power to issue such a decree.

The speaker of the Parliament said it would meet within "hours." Military officials, judges and political parties all announced emergency meetings. Beyond that, there was no immediate response from the military council, which took power in Egypt after former President Hosni Mubarak was forced from office last year.

Some analysts said it seemed likely that the army knew of Morsi's plans, while others found it hard to believe the generals would tolerate such an open challenge to their power. "The decree could create a political crisis," said Emad Eid, a prominent human rights lawyer. "He has been waiting to make a decision to prove he is president of a republic."

The military council ordered Parliament dissolved just before the presidential election last month, after a court ruled that one-third of the lawmakers had been elected was partly unconstitutional. In the same stroke, the military assumed legislative powers and severely limited the authority of the presidency to what some likened to a coup aimed at curbing the power of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist movement that held almost half the seats in Parliament.

When Morsi, the Brotherhood's candidate, won the presidency, many wondered whether he would directly confront the military council, known as the SCAF, or seek an accommodation, an approach the Brotherhood often seemed to favor. "This could be the early signs of a deal, or the early signs of a battle between the military council and the Brotherhood," said Ahmed Raghib, a human rights lawyer. "Morsi used his powers as president, just like the military used its power as acting president before."

The announcement Sunday suggests Morsi was willing to stake his credibility on a challenge to the military's version of power sharing, which left the president's legislative agenda and even his budget dependent on the generals. The decree "certainly amounts to a confrontation with the [military]," said Nathan J. Brown, a political science professor at George Washington University. "It probably amounts to a very bold confrontation with the SCAF as well, though we don't know what understanding may have been reached there."

Morsi's decree comes with a time limit: Parliament is to serve only until a new country-wide election is completed, followed by fresh legislative elections within 60 days. Brown and others suggested that this provision was intended to soften the blow to the military, if only slightly, by acknowledging the court's demand for a new Parliament.

The wording of the decree left many questions unanswered. It was not clear whether the new election would supersede the earlier Parliament, or just the members whose seats must soon come in the court case, amounting to one-third of the total. Analysts also pointed out that any laws passed by the reconvened Parliament could be vulnerable to constitutional challenges.

Many decisions emerged among the country's political factions Sunday as they reacted to the decree, hinting at a brewing crisis. Some hailed it as an audacious stroke to restore civilian power, while others loathed Morsi for setting a dangerous precedent by overruling Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court.

Members of the Muslim Brotherhood's political wing, the Freedom and Justice Party, were the most adamant supporters of the decree, while some members of liberal and leftist parties said they would not return to the assembly. Another coalition that included revolutionary youth groups said it supported the decree.

Morsi forged his ruling challenge of Mubarak's interestingly. Some saw in the wording of the decree a narrow rebuke of the military and an overruling of a largely administrative order by the generals, rather than a broader challenge to the courts.

"I think the lawyers fighting [the decree] are 100 percent correct." It abolishes an executive order, and it is not related to the constitutional court," he said. "It negated the decision of the military council." *New York Times News Service*

EGYPTIAN Field Marshal Gen. Hussein Tantawi, left, and new President Mohammed Morsi, center, at a medal ceremony at a military base on July 5.

Pakistan shuns physicist linked to 'God particle'

ISLAMABAD—The pioneering work of Abdus Salam, Pakistan's only Nobel laureate, helped lead to the experimental discovery of the sub-atomic 'God particle' last week. But the late physicist is no hero at home, where his name has been stricken from school textbooks.

THE 1979 Pakistani Nobel Prize laureate Professor Abdus Salam

Prime within Pakistan for Salam, who also guided the early stages of the country's nuclear program, ended decades ago as Muslim fundamentalists gained power. His biography by the physicist also, which has been published in the government and targeted by Taliban militants who view his members as heretics.

Their plight—along with that of Pakistan's other religious minorities, such as Shiite Muslims, Christians and Hindus—has deepened in recent years as hardline interpretations of Islam have gained ground and militants have stepped up attacks against groups they oppose. Most Pakistanis are found Muslims.

Salam, a child prodigy born in 1926 in what was to become Pakistan, after the partition of British India, went on to more than a dozen international prizes and honors. In 1979, he was co-winner of the Nobel Prize for his work on the so-called Standard Model of particle physics, which describes how fundamental forces govern the overall dynamics of the universe. He died in 1996.

Salam and Steven Weinberg, with whom he shared the Nobel Prize, independently predicted the existence of weak-atomic particles now called the Higgs boson, named after a British physicist who theorized that it endowed other particles with mass, and Steven Weinberg, a Pakistani physicist who once worked with Salam. It is also known as the "God particle" because its relevance is vitally important to our understanding the study evolution of the universe.

Physicists in Switzerland stoked worldwide excitement Wednesday when they announced they have all but proven the particle's existence. That was also during the world's largest atom smasher at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, near Geneva.

"This would be a great declaration of Salam's work and the Standard Model as a whole," said Pervez Hoodbhoy, chair and of the physics department at Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, Salam wielded significant influence in Pakistan as the chief scientific adviser to the president, helping to set up the country's space agency and a nuclear reactor. He also founded technology bodies also assisted in the early stages of Pakistan's effort to build a nuclear bomb, which it eventually tested in 1998. AP

China pollution protest ends, but not distrust of gov't

SHIFANG—Liu Zixia splutters each cage when asked if he believes government promises to scrap plans for a copper refinery near his home to southwest China, a project which has sparked violent protests.

"They're liars!" the middle-aged woman says, spitting out his words in thickly accented Mandarin. "Nobody believes they won't build it eventually."

It was a dramatic of the fury that erupted in Sichuan province's Shifang town last week, when thousands of people took to the streets to protest the $1.6 billion refinery that they feared would poison their families. The city government swiftly called off the project.

Such protests, and backdowns, are becoming more frequent in the world's second-largest economy, powered by breakneck growth. In August 2012, thousands of protesters forced the closure of a paraxylene plant after marching on the city square in the major city of Dalian in northeastern China.

While China does tens of thousands of "mass incidents" annually over pollution, as well as issues like eviction, the Shifang uprising captured national attention and was widely discussed on popular microblogs very little apparent censorship.

"The issue has really struck a chord with people," said one Chinese-based Western diplomat, speaking on the customary condition of anonymity.

"It's a perception problem more than anything, a lack of trust in the government. There's not enough information," the diplomat added. "The plant is a project, after all, which had been approved by the environmental authorities."

The unrest spotlighted by the government's plans to allow construction of the plant was the latest instance of public protests blocking industrial expansion because of environmental concerns.

Shanghai-listed Sinkiang Shanda, one of China's biggest zinc and lead producers, issued a statement after the protests, announcing that it was a government-approved project and met the highest environmental standards.

The project would have an important boosting effect for local revenue, promoting employment and improving people's livelihood," it said in a statement to the Shanghai stock exchange.

Many of the residents of the villages there have expressed lifelong and also live close by and with the existing factory where the new plant was to be built, said it was the government's unwillingness to explain the plans that sparked their fury.

"We don't oppose the government, but they must explain the risks involved in a project like this, and this didn't. Their public efforts were not good enough," said Jiang Jiaxin, who runs a small guest house and restaurant.

The government keeps talking about resolving livelihood problems, but they have to start doing so as the grassroots," added Jiang, who relies on tourism, visiting the pleasantly pastoral region.

Hongfeng Shifang plan, which makes several chemical products, including phosphates to be used in fertilizers as well as hydrochloric acid, is a grim-looking collection of buildings standing under the mountainous the north of the city.

Huge, gray slag heaps are visible from the main road, and a large river, swelling barely navigable and providing a stark, moon-like landscape contrast with the verdant fields nearby.

According to the latest annual Finance Dept., an area of the World Bank, copper smelting and refining and produce necessary sulphur dioxide, arsenic and other pollutants.

If the new plant were to be built, such pollutants could be dispersed into the air or flow into the river, poisoning drinking supplies and scientific land, residents said.

China's stability-obsessed leadership has vowed to clean up the country's hazy skies and dusk waterways, and increasingly tries to appease responses to complaints about pollution.

But environmental disputes citizens against local officials often end in fury, with police frequently using force to disperse crowds and put is often linked to their ability to do so. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CALABARZON
Region IV-A

INVITATION TO BID

Contract ID	Contract Name	Contract Duration	ABC
CM-2013-01	Construction of Main Hospital Complex	270	₱ 300,000,000.00
CM-2013-02	Construction of Multi-Purpose Hall	90	₱ 5,000,000.00
CM-2013-03	Upgrading of Lab Equipment	60	₱ 2,000,000.00
CM-2013-04	Supply and Delivery of Medicines	30	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-05	Repair/Renovation of Old Canteen Building	60	₱ 1,500,000.00
CM-2013-06	Construction of Parking, Drainage System and Perimeter Fencing	120	₱ 3,000,000.00
CM-2013-07	Procurement of Hospital Furniture and Fixtures	90	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-08	Repair/Renovation of Main Lobby Area	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-09	Procurement of Medical Equipment	90	₱ 2,000,000.00
CM-2013-10	Construction of Extension of OPD Clinic	90	₱ 1,500,000.00
CM-2013-11	Upgrade Maternal Delivery Center	90	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-12	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-13	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-14	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-15	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-16	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-17	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-18	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-19	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-20	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-21	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-22	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-23	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-24	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-25	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-26	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-27	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-28	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-29	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-30	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-31	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-32	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-33	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-34	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-35	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-36	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-37	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-38	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-39	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-40	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-41	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-42	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-43	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-44	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-45	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-46	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-47	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-48	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-49	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-50	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CALABARZON
Region IV-A

INVITATION TO BID

Contract ID	Contract Name	Contract Duration	ABC
CM-2013-51	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-52	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-53	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-54	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-55	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-56	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-57	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-58	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-59	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-60	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CALABARZON
Region IV-A

INVITATION TO BID

Contract ID	Contract Name	Contract Duration	ABC
CM-2013-61	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-62	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-63	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-64	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-65	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-66	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-67	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-68	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-69	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-70	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-71	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-72	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-73	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-74	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-75	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-76	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-77	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-78	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-79	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-80	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-81	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-82	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-83	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-84	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-85	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-86	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-87	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-88	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-89	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-90	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CALABARZON
Region IV-A

INVITATION TO BID

Contract ID	Contract Name	Contract Duration	ABC
CM-2013-91	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-92	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-93	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-94	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-95	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-96	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-97	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-98	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-99	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-100	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CALABARZON
Region IV-A

INVITATION TO BID

Contract ID	Contract Name	Contract Duration	ABC
CM-2013-101	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-102	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-103	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-104	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-105	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-106	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-107	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-108	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-109	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-110	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CALABARZON
Region IV-A

INVITATION TO BID

Contract ID	Contract Name	Contract Duration	ABC
CM-2013-111	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-112	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-113	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-114	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-115	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-116	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-117	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-118	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-119	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-120	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CALABARZON
Region IV-A

INVITATION TO BID

Contract ID	Contract Name	Contract Duration	ABC
CM-2013-121	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-122	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-123	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-124	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-125	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-126	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-127	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-128	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-129	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-130	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CALABARZON
Region IV-A

INVITATION TO BID

Contract ID	Contract Name	Contract Duration	ABC
CM-2013-131	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-132	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-133	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-134	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-135	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-136	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-137	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-138	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-139	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-140	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CALABARZON
Region IV-A

INVITATION TO BID

Contract ID	Contract Name	Contract Duration	ABC
CM-2013-141	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-142	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-143	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-144	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-145	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-146	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-147	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-148	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-149	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00
CM-2013-150	Procurement of Computer Set	60	₱ 1,000,000.00

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Libya poll may break Islamist wave

BENGHAZI, Libya—A coalition led by a Western-educated political scientist appeared on Sunday to be beating Islamist parties in Libya's first election after Moammar Gadhafi, breaking an Islamist wave that swept across neighboring Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco in the aftermath of the Arab Spring uprisings.

The preliminary results, characterized by independents' resurgence and party representatives who advocated the vote ensuring for a new national assembly, reflect in part the well-known name and tribal connections of the coalition's founder, Mahmoud Jibril. He is the former interim prime minister who helped lead the de facto rebel government in Benghazi, and he is also a member of Libya's most populous tribe, the Warfalla.

The apparent success of Jibril's party over the Muslim Brotherhood's bloc makes him perhaps the most important winner in the next stage of Libya's transition, though he is barred for now from elected office.

In a campaign that took place over just one week, after a 40-year stretch in which Gadhafi crushed any dissent so even political organizing, the fledgling groups like the Muslim Brotherhood fared better than some had feared, including the Islamist parties. Jibril pledged to make Islamic law a main source of legislation, though not the only one.

He and his allies publicly echoed a frequent refrain of Libyans voters who were unsure what to make of ex-insurgent groups like the Muslim Brotherhood: "Do they think they are more Muslim than we are?"

A political scientist who earned his doctoral degree at the University of Pittsburgh and taught there as well, Jibril said in a recent interview on Libyan television that his multilateralism in either the United States or Libya would describe him as someone who "goes to the mosque for Friday prayers, and we are that for years."

"The Libyan people don't need either liberalism or secularism to come to them in front of them because Islam, this great religion, cannot be used for political purposes. Islam is much bigger than that," he said.

"Jibril is playing five times a day and fasting, so what is the difference?" asked Abdessalam Sadek, a former religious and political leader in the eastern city of Benghazi who appeared set to win a seat in the congress. Ali Tarhouni, the leader of a fledgling party in Jibril's coalition and another former resis-

JIBRIL

tor in the transitional government, called the results conference of Libyans' "moderate" character. But he also attributed their success to familiar ties. "People trust us," he said. "Coming out of a war, with a political vacuum and a security vacuum, people were looking for those they knew were trusted in the tough times."

Official results will not be released for several days. The vote count of people started Saturday night in each polling center in the presence of party and candidate representatives, as well as independent observers. Both Islamists and their opponents said Sunday that Jibril's coalition was headed for at least a plurality of the planned congress. It is expected to govern Libya for 18 months and possibly oversee the writing of a constitution.

Some leading Islamists had predicted as recently as a few days ago that their parties would win as much as 60 percent of the seats. But one leader, Ibrahim Sahdek, a leader of the party founded by Libya's Muslim Brotherhood, said it now expected to win less than a quarter of the 200 seats. New York Times News Service

Merkel, Hollande hail French-German bond

HOLLANDE (right) and Merkel smile after having each other as a symbolic celebration of unity. AFP/FILE

PARIS—Fifty years to the day after Konrad Adenauer and Charles de Gaulle shook hands in a gesture of reconciliation intended to put an end to a century of war and enmity, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany came to the same place, former Carlsbad, on Sunday to commemorate French-German friendship with François Hollande, the new French president.

The relationship has been under recent because of the country's euro crisis and the effort by Hollande, together with the leaders of Spain and Italy, to push Merkel toward a greater commitment to sharing the costs of European debt and promoting growth. But on Sunday, those concerns were put aside as the leaders of the largest economies of impoverished and peace in a Europe that is generally unified and free.

"At each step of European reconstruction, the German-French friendship was the base," said Hollande, standing with Merkel outside the railroad car that was heavily damaged by the Germans in World War I. "I propose to you that we open a new door to even tighter friendship."

Merkel also hailed the relationship as crucial to the European Union. "Europe is more than just a currency, and the Franco-German relationship is vital in this regard," she said.

"The European economic and currency crisis, as founded 20 years ago, has proved itself not strong enough yet," she said. "Our generation has to draw the right lessons from that." It is important, she said, to put the "Existing reaches on a political level of the economic and monetary union—it's a herculean task, but Europe is up to it."

She ended by saying, "Long live Franco-German friendship" in both languages.

Reims Cathedral, where the two leaders attended a special

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Reims Cathedral, where the two leaders attended a special Mass, is where French kings were being crowned, and it was occupied by the Nazis in 1870. It was in Reims that Germany signed their surrender to the Allies on May 7, 1945, heralding the end of World War II in Europe.

In January 1963, Adenauer, the chancellor of West Germany, and de Gaulle signed a treaty of friendship and reconciliation, and a variety of events are commemorating the French-German relationship.

On Sunday, the police said they were investigating the overnight desecration of the graves of 45 German soldiers from World War I who are buried at a military cemetery in La Horgne-au-Bois, a village in the Ardennes 23 miles east of Reims. The police said no message was left behind, and it was unclear if the vandalism was connected to the ceremony.

Interior Minister Manuel Valls condemned the act and said that police would be used to find those responsible for those unbearable degradations."

At the ceremony, Hollande said, "So dark terms, much too stupid now, can alter the deep Franco-German friendship."

New York Times News Service

Blistering heat wave in US finally lets up

CHICAGO—A blistering heat wave finally showed signs of loosening up across the US Midwest and Northeast on Sunday, bringing relief to millions after dozens of oppressive, temperature-related deaths and forecasters warned that a new round of record highs could soon baste Western states.

"It's going to start as soon as tomorrow—really everybody in the Rockies is going to see this here," said Alan Reppert, senior meteorologist for AccuWeather.com. He said a high pressure system developing over the Rockies will create temperatures of over 37.7 degrees Celsius in Salt Lake City by Wednesday.

A slow-moving front of cool air from Canada started pushing the oppressive heat eastward on Sunday from Minneapolis and Detroit to Pittsburgh. The temperatures in Chicago, which saw three consecutive days of triple-digit temperatures in the past week, was expected 23 degrees Celsius on Sunday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

New York City and Philadelphia still were hot on Sunday although not as oppressive as in days past, with highs in the lower 30s.

Thunderstorms were expected Sunday afternoon from Maryland on south, with storms in the area for most of the week. The storms also will affect the central and southern Plains states, Reppert said.

The blistering heat wave that scorched much of the eastern two-thirds of the nation with triple-digit temperatures has tied or broken nearly 1,400 maximum and minimum temperature records across the country in July, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The heat wave has been deadly, including a 5-month-old Indiana girl who police say was left in a car outside her home in Greenfield, about 40 kilometers east of Indianapolis, for an extended period of time when temperatures were about 38 degrees Celsius.

The prolonged, extreme warmth has is threatening the Midwest's corn crop and leading to wildfires. The latest US Drought Monitor report, released Thursday showed drought conditions covering more of the contiguous United States than at any other time since the report began in January 2000.

"The problem for crops...especially the corn crop—has been the heat and lack of rainfall. It is dry across much of the Midwest and Plains and there is no relief in sight," Reppert said. Reuters

Oscar winner actor Ernest Borgnine dead at 95

LOS ANGELES—US actor Ernest Borgnine, whose barrel-chested, bulldog looks made him a natural for tough-guy roles in films like "From Here to Eternity" but who won an Oscar for playing a sensitive loner in "Marty," died on Sunday at age 95, his publicist said.

The veteran film and TV star, who became a household name during the 1950s by starring as the maverick commander of a World War II patrol boat in the popular television comedy "McHale's Navy," died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, longtime spokesperson Harry Flynn said.

Borgnine, who continued to work until very recently, had been the oldest living recipient of an Academy Award for best actor, Flynn said.

A statement from the actor's family said he "had been in excellent health until a recent illness."

Flynn said Borgnine received "unspecified surgery he underwent a month ago but his condition deteriorated rapidly after he visited the hospital on Tuesday for a medical checkup."

His last screen credit was the lead role of an aging nursing home patient in a film set for release later this year, "The Man Who Shook the Hand of Vincent Perandrello." The performance earned Borgnine a best actor award at the Newport Beach Film Festival, where it debuted in April, Flynn said.

With his burly profile, gruff voice and gap-toothed leer, Borgnine was on the verge of being typecast as the bad guy early in his career, following a string of entertaining performances as the heavy in such films as "Johnny Guitar" in 1954 and "Bad Day at Black Rock" in 1955." Borgnine's most memorable turn as a menacing tough guy was his breakout role in the 1953 Oscar-winning film "From Here to Eternity," as the sadistic Sergeant "Fatso" Judson, who terrorizes and eventually kills Frank Sinatra's character, Private Angelo Maggio.

But Borgnine broke free from the bad-guy rut and won his own Oscar with a role involving none role in 1955's "Marty," playing a sensitive-soul Bronx butcher who lamented, "One fact I gotta face is that, whatever I go for or want like, I ain't got it." In addition to his Academy Award, Borgnine's work in "Marty" led to more sympathetic roles in such films as "Jubal" (1956) and "The Best Things to Life Are Free" (1956).

AWARD presenter Grace Kelly poses with Oscar-winner Ernest Borgnine in photo taken on March 21, 1956.

Critic Bosley Crowther described Borgnine's Oscar-winning performance in "Marty" in his review of a television play by Paddy Chayefsky, as "a lovesick blend of the crude and strangely gentle and sensitive." Some critics hinted that Borgnine won a "Best Actor" in role life, but the actor, who was married five times, took exception to saying, "It's the picture, but I'm no dumb-dick either."

"Marty" also won Oscars for best picture, best director and adapted screenplay.

"Ernie is the nicest man I've ever worked with," said Sidney Lanfield, who directed him on the TV sitcom "McHale's Navy."

"When he says, 'Hello! How are you?' or 'Glad to see you!' you can bet the line has not been rehearsed." The television show, in which he starred as the skipper of a smelly PT boat crew sharing feisty repartee with whooping Japanese submariners, ran on ABC from the fall of 1962 until August 1966 and reinvigorated Borgnine's career. Frontiersman Tim Conway co-starred as McHale's ensign. Reuters

In US, cell phone firms flooded by requests to aid surveillance

By Eric Lichtblau

WASHINGTON—In the first public accounting of its kind, cell phone carriers reported that they responded to a startling 1.3 million demands for subscriber data last year from law enforcement agencies seeking text messages, caller locations and other information in the course of investigations.

The cell phone carriers' reports, which came in response to a congressional inquiry, document an explosion in cell phone surveillance in the last five years, with the companies turning over records thousands of times a day in response to police emergencies, court orders, law enforcement subpoenas and other requests.

The reports also reveal a sometimes uneasy partnership with law enforcement agencies, with the carriers frequently rejecting demands that they considered legally questionable or unjustified. At least one carrier even referred some inappropriate requests to the FBI.

The information represents the first time data have been collected nationally on the frequency of cell surveillance by law enforcement. The volume of the requests reported by the carriers—which most likely involve several million subscribers—even surprised some officials who have closely followed the growth of cell surveillance.

"I never expected it to be this massive," said Rep. Edward J. Markey, Democrat of Massachusetts, who requested the data from nine carriers, including AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon, in response to an article in April in The New York Times on law enforcement officials' expanded use of cell tracking. Markey, who is the co-chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Privacy Caucus, made the carriers' responses available to The Times.

While the cell companies did not break down the types of law enforcement agencies making the data, they made clear that the widened cell surveillance net now covers various levels of government—from state officials investigating local crimes to federal officials pursuing terrorists to financial crimes and intelligence investigations at the state and federal levels.

AT&T alone now responds to an average of more than 700 requests a day, with about 230 of them regarded as emergencies that do not require the normal court orders and subpoenas. That is roughly triple the number it fielded in 2007, the company said. Law enforcement requests of all kinds have been rising among the other carriers as well, with annual increases of between 12 percent and 16 percent in the last five years. Sprint, which did not break down its figures in as much detail as other carriers, led all companies last year in reporting what amounted to at least 1,500 data requests on average a day.

With the rapid expansion of cell surveillance have come rising concerns—including among the carriers—about what legal safeguards are in place to balance law enforcement agencies' needs for information against the privacy rights of consumers.

Legal conflicts between these competing needs have flared before, but usually on national security matters. In 2006, photographs of phone records from the Bush administration's secret program of eavesdropping on suspicious international communications without court warrants were used, and ultimately were given immunity by Congress with the backing of the courts. The next year, the FBI was widely criticized for improperly using emergency letters to the phone companies to gather records on thousands of phone numbers in counterterrorism investigations that did not involve emergencies.

Under federal law, the carriers said they generally required a search warrant, a court order or a formal subpoena to release information about a subscriber, but in cases that law enforcement officials deem an emergency, a less formal request is often enough. Moreover, rapid technological changes in cell phones have blurred the lines on what is legally required to get data—particularly the use of GPS systems to identify the location of cell phones. New York Times News Service

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■ Meralco rates to rise this month/B4

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

5 foreign banks shut down PH offices

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
(on 5 July)
41.945

STOCK MARKET
(July 9, 2012)
100

Share prices decline

COSCAP shares prices yesterday fell sharply, along with those of other Asian markets, after Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao aired his concerns over China's growth.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) fell 1.95 percent, or nearly 100 points, to close at 5,203.74.

SOURCE: BSP (See stock market report on Page B2)

BSP: American Express, 4 others close shop due to financial woes

By Michelle V. Remo

AMERICAN Express Bank and four other foreign institutions have shut down their offices in the Philippines as the financial woes in the United States and Europe prompted them to sell of their offshore assets.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the asset sale was meant to help the financially troubled parent firms preserve liquidity.

In a circular notifying the local banking industry, the BSP said the five foreign banks have already packed up and left. Apart from American Express Bank, the others were Société Générale, Union Bank of California N.A., First International Bank and Wells Fargo.

Société Générale is based in Paris, while First International Bank is based in South Dakota. Wells Fargo is a subsidiary of SSP Berhad, which operates mainly out of Belgium.

"The closure of the offices in the Philippines is a case of deleveraging that is happening now in the West," BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. told the reporters. "Because of the financial problems of the parent firms, they decided to sell some assets."

He said the concerned banks were occupied mostly in the business of foreign exchange lending in the Philippines.

The banks were making profit here, Espenilla explained, but their parent firms were pressed for resources.

"I had a chance to talk to the head of one of the five foreign banks. He told me he was out about closing the bank's Philippine office because it was actually making money," Espenilla said.

He said the closure of the Philippine offices of the five foreign banks is consistent with the ongoing trend of deleveraging in the United States and Europe.

Troubled banks in the West are now disposing their assets in foreign countries as a means to shore up capital.

Espenilla said the Philippine banking system would not be significantly affected by the decision of the five foreign banks to leave. He said the five banks accounted for an insignificant portion of the total assets of the Philippine banking sector.

Also, there are several strong universal and commercial banks in the Philippines that can serve the loans and other financial services needs of the business sector and consumers, he added.

The sale of assets came soon among Western banks was brought on not only by financial problems, but by the imposition of tighter capitalization rules world-wide.

Because of the latest global financial crisis, where many advanced economies were through recession, regulators all over the world decided to raise their supervisory standards.

To prevent another crisis which was

FOREIGN /B4

PLDT: Sole PH firm to get investment grade

By Paolo G. Montecillo

FOLLOWING an upgrade by Standard & Poor's (S&P) last week, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) became the first corporation in the country's history to be considered "investment grade" by the world's top credit rating agencies.

In a statement on Monday, PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said this was an affirmation of the company's new strategy of investing heavily in the media sector that would pave the way for the company's long-term growth.

"We are gratified that PLDT is the first corporation in the country to eliminate such ratings from the three major global credit watchers—S&P, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings," PLDT CEO Napoleon Nazareno said.

PLDT's long-term dollar credit was upgraded to the minimum investment-grade rating of "BBB-" by S&P last week, following an upgrade to the Philippines' sovereign credit standing to a notch below investment grade.

The upgrade on the Philippines was a reflection of the country's improved economic fundamentals—a result of the administration's better tax collections, low inflation and a growing services sector.

PLDT is rated as "Baa2" by Moody's and "BBB-" by Fitch. Both ratings are considered "investment grade," which indicates a high probability that the company will be able to meet its financial obligations.

"The overall financial strength and competitive advantage of PLDT are reflected in the destination of being the only Philippine company whose debt ratings are similarly regarded as investment grade by all three rating agencies," PLDT chair Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan, managing director of PLDT's largest shareholder Metro Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., said the company's rating upgrade showed the financial sector's confidence in the company's plan to pour in billions to the group's media businesses.

"This affirms the soundness of our business strategy to transform PLDT into a multimedia services group, which has allowed the company to the best possible position to enhance its leadership position in the future," Pangilinan said.

Last May, PLDT announced a plan to invest PS billion in MediaQuest Holdings, a subsidiary of the company's Beneficial Trust Fund. MediaQuest owns Associated Broadcasting Corp., which operates the TV5 network.

It also has investments in media, payservices, and print publications, including a minority stake in newspaper BusinessWorld and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

In an unrelated development, Gotia Network Inc. chair Felipe L. Gozon denied that his family, together with the company's other shareholders, had signed a decision to sell the television station to the Pangilinan group for P52 billion.

Rumoring in an Inquirer report, which quoted sources privy to the discussions between GMA and the Pangilinan group, Gozon said "we are not the source of the information."

"We have not signed anything with the supposed buyer," said Gozon, who owns GMA together with the Jimenez and Duavit families.

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Phoenix board OKs ₱500-M convertible notes issuance

By Jory S. Baroa

PUBLICLY listed Phoenix Petroleum Philippines has gotten local stock exchange approval of the board for the issuance of P500 million in convertible notes, with warrants worth P100 million.

The notes with warrants will be issued to ISM Universal Stock. The P1.00-million warrant price will be the option to buy P100 million worth of stocks after three years at option to be agreed upon by both parties.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Phoenix Petroleum said the issuance would be presented for approval to its stockholders in a special meeting in September.

In a separate text message, Phoenix AVP for external affairs Emmanuel T. Estrella stated that the notes issuance would be undertaken following the signing of the agreement with ISM for the wetland project.

Estrella said proceeds of the issue will be used to finance the expansion of our retail network and the storage capacities of our various terminals."

Phoenix Petroleum has been embarking on its most aggressive retail network expansion program to date, which involves the setting-up of about 100 gas stations this year. Under this program, the company allocated P600 million to put up 40 gas stations in Luzon next year, 20 in the Visayas, and 40 more in Mindanao, in a bid to "dominate our home to be the leading independent player in the oil industry."

With these 100 stations, Phoenix Petroleum will have a total of 320 stations by the end of next year, from 220 stations as of the end of 2011.

Phoenix is also planning to put up three more depot facilities in Iloilo, Bacolod and Cebu to support its growing retail network.

Phoenix Petroleum said in the same disclosure that its board had also approved the acquisition of the entire shares of stock of Chelsea Shipping Corp. through a share-for-share swap arrangement. Chelsea is currently owned by Oaktree Management and Investcorp Corp. (USPEC), which is an existing stockholder of the Phoenix Petroleum.

Phoenix Petroleum will issue 177.346 billion common shares of the company's authorized but unissued capital stock as an implied value of about ₱1.41 billion.

According to the oil firm, the move will allow it to ensure control of petrol supply and minimize the potential risk of supply disruptions due to restricted maritime shipping.

Chelsea Shipping was incorporated in July 17, 2008 and has 28 vessels in its fleet, most of which serve the regional trade routes Taiwan to Philippines.

Chelsea Shipping owns the largest Philippine-registered oil tanker "M/T Philippine Thetis," which is among the top five major tanker owners in the country.

Apart from Phoenix Petroleum, Chelsea Shipping also provides services to Cebu Pacific Air Inc., PJT Philippines Inc., Total Bulk Corp. (which services Philippine refineries) and ISM Universal. Shareholders Ray Custom Inc. and Hunter Bank Philippines Inc. of the Magnolia Group of Companies.

Current market outlook and the Sona

MARKET RIDER

Dave Ismayrre

BEFORE last week, the movement of the market has been observed to be very "subdued" in nature. This was expected to continue last week.

True enough, the market continued to behave technically last week seeing which of new trends that could change the fundamental dimension of the market.

On Monday, bulls (buyers) manufactured the last three hours (subzero) in setting the day's trading record. The market opened 30.87 points higher at 5,275.28 against Friday's close of 5,246.41.

Bulls went on to lift the market higher during the day to a session's high of 5,316.87, that the market eventually hesitated to be pulled taking, necessitating its highly technical run.

This saw the benchmark index to close lower at 5,300.24 at the end of trading on a regular value turnover of P6.56 billion (also on regular volume of 2.549 billion shares).

Despite the market's lower and exceptionally weaker close for the day, it remained bullish last Monday. The market opened that day at 5,275.28, which was the session's low. Thus, it was not surprising to see the market to continue higher on Tuesday and sustain the following several probes' misses (at the session's high of 5,374.28, hit to set's 5,300.11) during the day on partial profit taking seeing to its technical notices, and close at 5,365.78 to post a new high post this last 52-week record of 5,209.76.

Significantly, the market registered a higher-than-usual value turnover for the day of P7.09 billion on only 1.75 billion shares, which meant something foreigners turned to "blue chips or bird liners" instead of fluid and second liner stocks.

"Blue chips or bird liner stocks are well-established and financially sound companies" that command higher market prices because they are known to "operate profitably in the face of adverse economic conditions, which helped to contribute to their long record of stable and reliable growth."

"Bird liners" are the so-called "speculative" stocks or those that do not have yet an established record of profitability and viability for this reason, they command lower market prices.

"Second liners" are stocks that have no operating experience and capitalization compared to "blue chip stocks" but have shown some measure of profitability and viability. As a result, they command lower market prices, usually in between the price band of first and third liner stocks.

Owing to the market's highly technical nature, the bears overpowered the bulls right from the beginning of trading when the market opened on Wednesday at 5,366.58.

The market managed to go up by only 36.58 points or 0.681.14 before it went on to slide down all the way to its close at 5,330.72. Total value turnover amounted to P6.06 billion on total volume of 1.17 billion shares.

Fortunately, the market fell by only 35.94 points or 0.2 percent as a result. Higher foreign buying transactions may have prevented the market from falling further in the face of bearish and selling for the day remained at a ratio of about 1.3 times to one, in favor of the bears.

Due to technical considerations, the market again recovered on Thursday and closed higher compared to the previous level by 15.26 points or 0.29 percent at 5,345.98.

Foreign buying transactions remained higher than foreign selling transactions at almost the same ratio to 1.46:1.

On Friday, the market opened at 5,370.44. It went on to hit a high of 5,385.61, but a test of 5,349.62 and closed at 5,361.98. Compared to the previous day the market incurred a net loss of 7.3 points or 0.19 percent.

Total value turnover amounted to P7.40 billion on volume of 1.76 billion shares, signaling a modest value turnover for the day that was more confined to lower priced stocks.

Other observations

The market's retreat last Friday was too much to have any serious warning concern for the current direction of the market. Overall, the market still made a modest weekly gain equivalent to 116.27 points or 2.22 percent.

Such gain was said to be the result of speculative activities by some market participants in connection with the forthcoming opening of the 15th congress on July 23 where Gloria will deliver his fourth-to-last third State.

This is not to discount, though, the contributions of some positive fundamentals that helped the market to perform well. One was the favorable earnings-season outlook pushed by the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) and SEC, which "recognized the progress of [the Aquino Administration in ensuring fiscal stability through improved revenue administration and prudent and effective public expenditure."

Intel upgrade was the "fifth positive credit ratings action" given to the Aquino Administration. It elevates under the Philippines "one notch below investment grade" by two out of three major credit rating agencies as they raised the credit rating of the country to "BB+" from "BB."

The other positive local was the somewhat local production of its food improved significantly. While exporting to import about 1.3 million tons to 2011, the country actually imported only a little over 950,000 tons.

For 2012, importation is expected to drop only 800,000 tons. In 2013, the country is expected to be self-sufficient and will no longer import rice, all due to the propagation and use of true-certified seeds administered by the Department of Agriculture.

Bottom line spin

Along with higher business confidence and stronger economic indicators, the market seems to be poised to produce more stock plays that will drive the benchmark index higher on fundamental grounds than on technical terms.

Considering what PNoy may announce in the State, the cues are hopeful yet. He seems to already have "checked off" some Top Priority bills again talk about the above-mentioned accomplishments, "including the impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona, the tolled flight of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the ₱ to 12 basic education program and cash transfers to the poor, as well as other things undertaken in advances to new investments, the enthusiasm [SEC] investigations in subject program against corruption, improvement in disaster management, as well as peace agreements, and advances in regional and international relations."

What may probably lift the market higher even before the Sona is the signing of the long pending Executive Order on the mining sector. It is reported that the coming EO will be signed early this week. The mining EO is expected to elaborate the government's outlook in balancing the interest of the national and local government that in the end must respond to "the needs of people at the local level."

The cues under the market to move downward or sideways or to consolidate. To my mind though, this should be taken as a good chance to restore your stock positions for the seasonal market run-up towards the end of this year or early next year.

(The writer is a licensed stockbroker of Eastern Securities. You may reach the author Dave through marketrider@inquirer.com.ph or at ismayrre@mozcom.com or at ismayrre@hotmail.com.)

SMIC retail bonds upsized to ₱15B

SM INVESTMENTS Corp. has increased its retail bond issue to P15 billion from the initial size of P10 billion due to strong demand from both retail and institutional investors. The issue consists of Series C bonds due 2018 and Series D bonds due 2022.

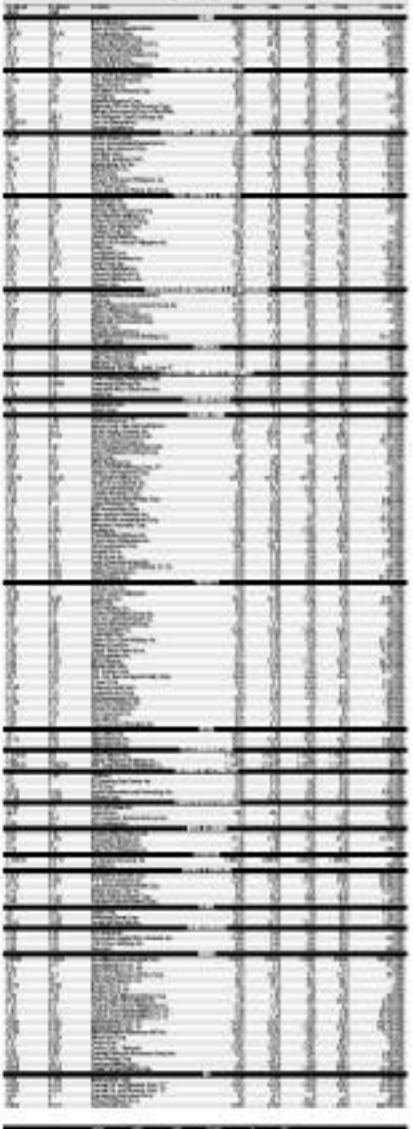
The bonds were purchased by a wide spectrum of investors ranging from individuals in the retail market, to banks, investment funds, pension funds, insurance companies and other corporations. The strong market response prompted the joint issue managers and joint lead underwriters to exercise the company's oversubscription option. The offer period for the SM bonds opened on June 27, 2012 and closed on July 03, 2012. The issue dates is July 16, 2012.

SM's maiden peso-denominated public bond issue in June 2009, composed of 5-year Series A and 7-year Series B tranches, was similarly oversubscribed. From an initial offer size of P5 billion, the SMIC issue doubled to P10 billion due to strong demand from both retail and institutional investors.

SM's bonds are rated PRS Triple A by Philippine Rating Services Corp., the highest rating assigned by PhilRatings. The rating agency the obligations are of the highest quality with minimal credit risk, and that the issuing company's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

The SM bonds' joint issue managers are BDO Capital & Investment Corp. and First Metro Investment Corp., which together also served as joint lead underwriters with BPI Capital Corp. and Union Banking Corp. A group of seven other investment banks acted as participating underwriters for the bond issue.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE



CURRENCY

Country	Code	Cash Equivalent	Bank Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

91-day T-bill yield down 166 pts

Gov't limited award of 1-year debt paper due to high rate

By Michelle V. Ratica

THE GOVERNMENT rejected some bids for the one-year treasury bills in yesterday's auction, as it deemed the interest rates sought by banks unreasonably high.

It is, however, apparently pleased with the market's appetite for the three- and six-month bills.

The 91-day T-bills fetched 2.008 percent, falling by 166 basis points from the previous rate of 2.174 percent. The decline was attributed to strong demand for the paper, with tenders reaching P6.095 billion, compared to the government's offering of only P3 billion. Not wanting to overborrow, the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee sold just P3 billion worth of the one-year bills.

The 182-day T-bills fetched 2.093 percent, down by 103 basis points from 3.271 percent.

Demand for the six-month debt paper was also strong, with tenders hitting P5.05 billion. The auction committee accepted only P2.2 billion of the bids, sticking to its borrowing program.

The 364-day T-bills fetched 2.488 percent, up by 3.6 basis points from the previous 2.45 percent. The rate could have been higher if the auction committee accepted the amount it was supposed to raise from the sale of the one-year debt paper.

The government sold just P3.2 billion worth of the one-year bills, instead of the P4 billion programmed.

National Treasury Rolando Tan said banks had shown strong interest in the three- and six-month government securities because of recent favorable economic developments.

The move last week by Standard & Poor's to raise the country's credit rating limit two notches to just one notch below investment grade has lifted the appetite of investors for peso-denominated instruments, economic managers said.

The benign inflation, which averaged only 3 percent in the first half of year, also favored investor interest in the country, they said.

Tan said investor interest in the 364-day T-bill was facilitated by the market-wise trading taken on the duration-linked instruments given lingering uncertainties in the global economy which could dampen the performance of emerging markets like the Philippines.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 2-05-98 of the National Telecommunications Commission, the provisions of the Radio Control Law, Act No. 3846, and Executive Order No. 546, dated 23 July 1979, Globe Telecom, Inc. would like to reiterate that it is ILLEGAL to import, acquire, lease or sell transmitters and/or transceivers that have NOT been duly authorized and permitted by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

The use of unauthorized transmitters and/or transceivers, including, but not limited to cellular signal repeaters and boosters, disrupt network coverage and causes public inconvenience.

Dealers, sellers and users of unauthorized transmitters and/or transceivers will be dealt with under the law.

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SM Land's TwoE-comCentre office building in Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City was recently cited by the UN-based International Property Awards (IPA) as the Best Office Development in the Philippines. Shown receiving the award at the regional ceremonies in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia are SM Land senior vice president and commercial properties group head David Rabasa (3rd from right), SM Land assistant vice president for construction Engr. Basilio Glean (2nd from right), and local architect of record Arch. Felix Lim (3rd from left). Award committee representatives are (from left): Bill Jones of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) - Asia; Alvin Tay, HSBC regional director of commercial banking; and Stuart Shield, IPA chairman.

Here's to the long haul

In an exclusive driving experience held at the Batangas Racing Circuit, distinguished guests had the opportunity to test the power of the new Mercedes-Benz trucks. But more than the launch of the Actros, it marked the beginning of our journey towards a stronger relationship with those we value most – our customers.

To our guests, we thank you for your overwhelming support and promise to continue making trucks you can trust.

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Outlook seen rosy with rise in output

Meralco rates to rise this month

WESM price hike forced hand of utility

Lafarge inks power supply deal with Pinoy unit

Petronas Energy seeks tax perks

Cebu Pacific chief cited

ITHR official resigns over fraudulent issue

Plan holders demand PPI shares as compensation

Share prices decline

Foreign banks

JB3 %

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Origin & Company

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO USE BRAND PROMISING ADDITIONAL DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES WITH A MOTORCYCLE TAXI PROGRAM, (ALL) WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2011-XXX MC

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR YEAR 2012 WITH A PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2012-[illegible] MC

[illegible] ELECTRIC COMPANY, INCORPORATED (PECO)

Applicant

x---------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on [illegible] 2012, Pampanga Electric Company Incorporated (PECO) filed an application for authority to implement its proposed additional capital projects for year 2012 with a provisional authority, docketed as ERC Case No. 2012-[illegible] MC.

In the said application, PECO alleged, among others, that:

1. It is an electric distribution utility organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, with principal address at the PECO Compound, 1 Pecco Dr., Barangay Cabu, City of Angeles and Municipality of Porac, Pampanga, where it may be served with notices, orders and processes issued by this Honorable Commission;

2. Pursuant to Section 43(f) of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) and Rule 17 (Rate Case) of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the Energy Regulatory Commission or the Commission, in the Resolution dated [illegible] 2012, directed the applicant to publish the application and the Commission's Order, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines, one of which must be published in the province where the applicant principally conducts its business, and to furnish the Commission, the Provincial Governor of Pampanga, the Provincial Board Members and the Mayors of the cities and municipalities in the franchise area of the applicant with copies of the application and its attachments;

3. In accordance with the EPIRA, in order to expedite the approval of the proposed Projects, Procurement and Implementation Activities in accordance with the Rules for Setting Distribution Wheeling Rates (RDWR) for the Regulatory Period for July 2012 to June 2013, Resolution No. [illegible] 12 for Year 2012, dated [illegible] 2012, the Commission has authorized PECO to collect the provisional authority rate increase of [illegible] per kWh;

4. In the Decision dated March 6, 2012 in ERC Case No. [illegible], the Commission approved certain capital expenditure projects, but disallowed such projects:

a) [illegible] Power Operations Department and Logistics Department for [illegible] Vehicles, which violates the Commission's Guidelines and Procedures in the Purchase of Motor Vehicles for Government Use, which states that a transferred vehicle shall be in use for at least two consecutive years before it can be replaced, unless the Commission has granted an exemption, or a waiver has been granted by the Commission, which has not been complied with by the applicant;

b) [illegible] Power Operations Department and Logistics Department for [illegible] Vehicles, which violates the Commission's Guidelines and Procedures in the Purchase of Motor Vehicles for Government Use, which states that a transferred vehicle shall be in use for at least two consecutive years before it can be replaced, unless the Commission has granted an exemption, or a waiver has been granted by the Commission, which has not been complied with by the applicant;

c) [illegible] Power Operations Department for [illegible] Vehicles, which violates the Commission's Guidelines and Procedures in the Purchase of Motor Vehicles for Government Use, which states that a transferred vehicle shall be in use for at least two consecutive years before it can be replaced, unless the Commission has granted an exemption, or a waiver has been granted by the Commission, which has not been complied with by the applicant;

d) [illegible] Power Operations Department for [illegible] Vehicles, which violates the Commission's Guidelines and Procedures in the Purchase of Motor Vehicles for Government Use, which states that a transferred vehicle shall be in use for at least two consecutive years before it can be replaced, unless the Commission has granted an exemption, or a waiver has been granted by the Commission, which has not been complied with by the applicant;

e) [illegible] Power Operations Department for [illegible] Vehicles, which violates the Commission's Guidelines and Procedures in the Purchase of Motor Vehicles for Government Use, which states that a transferred vehicle shall be in use for at least two consecutive years before it can be replaced, unless the Commission has granted an exemption, or a waiver has been granted by the Commission, which has not been complied with by the applicant;

5. It has duly complied with the requirements for the issuance of these orders and made them fully aware of its rights and obligations and granted their authority to proceed with the said hearing pursuant to the various Rules, it has to [illegible] publication requirements, and submission of additional supporting documents;

6. The following is the summary of the applicant's proposed projects under ERC Case No. 2012-[illegible] MC, for which it is seeking provisional approval under the application:

Component Project	Project Name	Regulatory Year	Project Cost (PhP)
[illegible]	[illegible]	2013	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	2013	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	2013	[illegible]

7. In its computations under Rate Year 1, 2013, it was allowed to implement the Regulatory Reinvestment Rate or the rate of PhP[illegible] per kWh. However, upon further evaluation, it decided not to implement the implementation of the project considering particularly on CAPEX delay, [illegible] and the impact of the said increase to the customers in the current economic crisis the country is experiencing;

8. Moreover, as its revenues and its computations and its computation under Regulatory Rate Year 1, 2013, it was allowed to implement the Regulatory Reinvestment Rate or the rate of PhP[illegible] per kWh. However, upon further evaluation, it decided not to implement the implementation of the project considering particularly on CAPEX delay, [illegible] and the impact of the said increase to the customers in the current economic crisis the country is experiencing;

9. Attached to the application are its supporting documents and the testimonies of its witnesses, which are intended to be presented during the hearing of the application, and which are hereby made integral parts of the application;

10. Petitioner is not the subject of any pending case before any court of competent jurisdiction which may affect the ownership, operation or management of its business or any portion thereof;

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Artist's perspective of Rio Tower lobby

Artist's rendering of the 3-level retail shopping center

RIO Tower highlights carnival vibe at The Capital Towers

The Rio Tower is making condo living a richer experience at The Capital Towers as the third of Federal Land's upscale residential development along E. Rodriguez, Sr. Avenue, Quezon City promises a carefree and vibrant lifestyle in the tradition of one of the world's most festive cities.

Inspired by Brazil's crowd-pleasing city of Rio de Janeiro, the Rio Tower replicates the celebratory mood of the famous carnival by giving homeowners and their visitors an 18-hour continuous fun and excitement whether they are inside their luxurious condo unit or in the indoor and outdoor amenities.

"The Rio Tower, just like the Rio Carnival, is a symbol of people coming together and enjoying each other," according to Federal Land president, Alfredo Yao.

The has its own amenities in the 15th floor that guarantee residents and guests zero boredom. The swimming pool and poolside deck brings out the resort-type spirit of Rio Tower by offering relaxation or serving as a party venue.

There's also a function room, which can accommodate a family gathering. Children can have fun all day at their own play area while adults can enjoy billiards and table tennis at the game room. Other first-class amenities are a jogging path, gym, daycare center, commercial arcade and a view deck.

Rio's 20- to 28-square-meter studio unit, 28- to 36-square-meter 1-bedroom unit, and 41- to 42-square-meter 2-bedroom unit are perfect for snug and functional for a startup family or professional. Each Rio unit has solving and dining area and bedroom with laminated wood plank flooring while the kitchen and toilet and bathroom have ceramic tile floors.

At 42-storeys tall, the Rio Tower affords high zone residents a view of landscape in the east, Manila Bay in the west, northern Manila in the north and the Makati skyline in the south. There are four elevators to serve all residents. The building is also equipped with an automatic fire suppression system, fire detection alarm system, emergency power generator and emergency broadcast panel.

Location enhances the Rio Tower's feature offerings with low-hopping and gig-watching options in the eligible strip of nearby Tomas Morato and Timog Avenues. Shopaholics also have easy access to Ever Gateway and Ali Mall in Cubao and the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. Everything else is even found nearby in Cubao.

The Rio Tower will be the culmination of The Capital Towers, which comprises two other residential buildings perched on podiums: the Athens and Beijing. The Athens Tower has been completed while construction of the Beijing Tower is currently in full swing, and is scheduled for completion by next year. The 35-storey Beijing Tower is also offering bigger units and the innovative Hi-Loft concept or units that can be converted into a home office or a studio.

The Rio Tower is scheduled for completion by mid-2013 and is targeted for completion in 2016, when Rio de Janeiro in Brazil hosts the Olympics!

For more information about Rio Tower, please call 723-4153 or visit its website at www.thecapitaltowers.com.ph.

Contributed

DOING GREAT AT 8

THE CITY OF Santa Rosa

8th Cityhood Anniversary

"Serbisyong Maketao, Lungsod na Makabago"

Mayor ARLENE B. ARCILLAS

Drive Smart

Tough enough to take on any challenge

P159K* ALL-IN LOW DP

INCLUDES

Ford Go Further

DOING GREAT AT 8

Doing great things together as One City with One Vision

TOYOTA moving forward

TOYOTA FEST

BIG SAVINGS

FREEBIES

Visit your nearest Toyota dealer and enjoy a revival of big savings and exciting freebies!

OFFER FROM JULY 5-16 ONLY!

BIG SAVINGS with ongoing Vios® and Innova promos

ADDITIONAL P10,000 discount for Innova buyers

Get up to P30,000 additional savings with the Toyota Loyalty Program

FREE INSURANCE for Vios

GET A CHANCE to win up to P5,000 worth of gas cards

INNOVA

VIOS

Santa Rosa's 8th Cityhood celebration

DOING GREAT AT 8

Doing great things together as One City with One Vision

THE CITY OF Santa Rosa

CITY OF SANTA ROSA LAGUNA

DOING GREAT AT 8

VISION

A highly developed premier city of South Luzon that is dynamic and progressive with pro-active and efficient governance.

Isang maka-diyos at pamayanang lungsod sa Timog Luzon na maunlad, progresibo at may maagap at mahusay pamumuno.

MISSION

Attain total human development through an integrated strategy anchored on poverty alleviation, capacity-building, promotion of health and wellness, and maintenance of a peaceful community.

Matamo ang pangkabuhayang makatawag kaunlaran sa pamamagitan ng maaasahang istratehiyang nakaangkla sa pagsugpo sa kahirapan, paglinang ng kapasidad, pagtaguyod ng kalusugan at kagalingan, at pagpapanatili ng mapayapang komunidad.

OUR PERFORMANCE PLEDGE

We, the officials and employees of the City Government of Santa Rosa, commit to:

- Serve promptly, efficiently and with utmost courtesy;
- Take action and respond to and complaint without delay;
- Abide strictly with service standards;
- Respond to queries, comments and suggestions promptly;
- Open access to information regarding policies programs, activities, and services;
- Stand and abide by our mandate, vision and mission;
- Advocate for reforms against graft and corruption, and eliminate all forms of bureaucratic red tape.

MAYOR ARLENE B. ARCILLAS

It was eight years to this day when Renaissance overwhelmingly decided affirm Republic Act No. 9264, the law which converted the Municipality of Santa Rosa into a component city of the Province of Laguna known as the City of Santa Rosa. Through those eight years, the City of Santa Rosa has achieved endeavours that have placed the city among the best cities in the Philippines to live in, to invest in and to visit.

In those eight years, Mayor Arlene B. Arcillas have served six years as the local chief executive of the City of Santa Rosa. And to all of those six years, the City of Santa Rosa and its people have done wonderful and incredible things together. The City and its people have accomplished much... they have done more than expected. In fact, as to eighth year as a city, the populace of the City of Santa Rosa can all be proud to say that WE ARE DOING GREAT AT 8.

A year of greatness

"Truly this has been a year of excellence," Mayor Arcillas said of the year 2011, which was capped by major recognitions for the City of Santa Rosa.

The year 2011 was highlighted by by the highest honor a government official can receive in the performance of his duty. Mayor Arcillas is now included in the list of public servants who are "models of honor, excellence and integrity to public service" after she was given the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award in November 9, 2011 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Makeati in Pilipinas.

The award is a testament to the fact that the Gintong Kapayapaan City is committed in achieving her vision and mission for the city. It is a recognition that she is doing what government officials and employees are mandated to do.

While Mayor Arcillas received the highest accolade, the year was capped by another recognition, this time for the city's dedication and commitment towards transparency and accountability. Secretary Jesse Robredo of the Department of Interior and Local Government said the Seal of Good Housekeeping was awarded to the City of Santa Rosa for achieving the first level in transparency and accountability.

In January 2012, the City was included among the five (5) cities in the Philippines cited in the top 100 destinations for information technology and business process outsourcing (IT-BPO) services in a report by technology investment and research firm Tholons. Santa Rosa ranked 68th after Metro Manila (48th), Cebu City (49th) and Iloilo City (99th). Iloilo City is ranked 93rd. This citation reveals the readiness of the City of Santa Rosa in its thrustment for telecommunication and information technology, especially since the city will host the 5th National Information and Communications Technology Summit in November this year.

Increasing revenues, increasing benefits

Under Mayor Arcillas' effective leadership of the City Government, the most 5th-busiest and 3rd-richest municipality in terms of economy is now acclaimed as the Gem City of South Luzon, being home to some of the biggest academic-based corporations in the country. It is dubbed as the Silicon City of the Philippines as it is the center of innovative manufacturing. And it is one of the Next Wave Cities in the Philippines due to its potentials in becoming a hub in education and communications technology.

Businesses continue to benefit from the gains of a vibrant economy: a high rate of employment, a vigorous trade investment inflow of investment from businesses, a sustained entertainment, diverse housing, lean and quality education, efficient and appropriate social service, all of which respond to the needs of the constituency.

And the benefits will increase as the City starts implementing the new schedule of rates of taxes, fees and charges as mandated by City Ordinance No. 1075-2011, or the new Revenue Revenue Code of the City of Santa Rosa.

The new revenue code revised the 1992 Revenue Tax Code, which has not been amended nor revised for 19 years.

Mayor Arcillas explained that the general revision of the Schedule of Market Value (SMV) is consistent with the Joint Memorandum Circular 2010-01 issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Finance (DoF).

CONTINUED ON A2

THE CITY OF Santa Rosa

CITY OF SANTA ROSA LAGUNA

MAYOR ARLENE B. ARCILLAS

Hon. ARNEL DC. GOMEZ
City Vice Mayor

CITY COUNCILORS

Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award - Outstanding Public Officials and Employees. Santa Rosa City Mayor Arlene B. Arcillas receives a gold-plated medallion from Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa during the awarding of Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award yesterday November 9, 2011 at the Ritz Carlton Hall of Makeati in Pilipinas.

Seal of Good Housekeeping Awards. The City Government of Santa Rosa was awarded the Seal of Good Housekeeping by the Department of Interior and Local Government last December 13, 2011. Sec. Jesse Robredo personally awarded the Seal of Good Housekeeping to the City of Government of Santa Rosa.

"Conferment Regional Outstanding Women in Nutrition (CROWN) Award. Through the city's innovative programs for nutrition and prevention Barangay Nutrition Scholars, the City of Santa Rosa was able to maintain its Green Banner award for three (3) consecutive years since 2007 and received the Conferment Regional Outstanding Women in Nutrition (CROWN) Award in November 2010. The City also received its First Year CROWN Award in October 2011.

DOING GREAT AT 8

From page B6

New Operating Room at the Santa Rosa Community Hospital. The Santa Rosa Community Hospital (SRCH) has been providing Rosarians with quality healthcare services since the year it was built in 1991. In comes to the underprivileged in the city. The hospital is continuously upgrading and rehabilitating its facilities to provide better services.

Improvement City Cemetery. The Coffin Crypt in the City Cemetery was established to address the need for affordable and convenient burial places.

The circular requires all provinces, cities and the Municipality of Pateros, Metro Manila to prepare the Schedule of Market Values (SMVs) of Real Property and to conduct the General Revision of Property Assessment in their respective jurisdiction.

She said that the general revision was a necessary consequence to Santa Rosa's conversion into a city. She said that for 15 years, business taxes and charges has not increased, and for 11 years the Schedule of Market Value (SMV) was not revised.

Maintaining strong public-private partnership

"Of course, these efforts of the City Government of Santa Rosa would not happen without the aid of our tax payers. This is why I am thanking them for paying their dues and for their continued confidence in the City's ability to meet their needs, whether they are investors or residents," said Mayor Arellas.

The city always has its taxpayers in its mind. A strong public-private sector partnership has always been the hallmark of the administration Mayor Arellas. According to her, the contributions of the city's businesses in terms of business and realty tax payments and corporate social responsibility programs have provided the city government the capacity and capability to provide more extensive services for the residents and various infrastructure projects.

Mayor Arellas established a strong foundation on which both economic progress and social development could stand on. She was able to do this because of the efficiency in revenue collection, which, over the short term, steadily increased resulting to the appropriate budgeting of the city's various programs and projects.

New Building for Santa Rosa Science and Technology High School. Mayor Arellas constructed four school buildings in her first term of office.

Because of its sound policies and efficient management, investor confidence increased. This resulted in the infusion of new capital by investors and the expansion of operations by existing investors. As such, despite the global financial crisis, the local economy of the City of Santa Rosa remained strong and stable.

In return, the city recognizes the contributions of taxpayers through the Annual Outstanding Taxpayers Awards. In the awards, the top twenty real property taxpayers and top twenty business taxpayers are given appreciation for their contribution to City's economic growth and consistent and diligent payment of taxes.

This year the awards will be held on July 13, 2012 at the Enchanting Events Place in Enchanted Kingdom.

Establishing mechanisms for transparency, accountability, participation and efficiency

In October 2007, during her first 100 days in office, Mayor Arellas declared her style of governance. She said the, "that my style of governance will be participatory, and the services to be provided will be humane, relegating politics to give dignity and respect to our people who deserve more than just compassion and lip service but also transparency, sincerity and actual service." Indeed, she has done this.

Mayor Arellas has always been committed to transparency, accountability, participatory, efficiency in governance and has to understand that she needs the harmony of the people to be effective in delivering services to our people.

The Civil Service Commission has recognized the City of Santa Rosa as a Model City of Laguna "due to major strides in the area of good governance" in line with R.A. 9485 or Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007. In consonance with this, the City now has the Citizen's Charter, a transparency and efficiency toolkit that serves as a guide residents and visitors on how to access key city government services.

Mayor Arellas also institutionalized participatory, transparent and accountable governance through the establishment of the City of Santa Rosa People's Council, which ensures that the mechanisms for consultation is in place, opening the doors for people participation in governance.

(SEE PAGE B8-A)

New Barangay Hall in Barangay Dila. Barangay halls keeping up with the modern times.

New Barangay Hall of Barangay Labas. Barangay halls keeping up with the modern times.

HNA Building II at Sinalhan IV National High School. Mayor Arellas constructed four school buildings in her first term of office.

River Clean-Up. 1st Johannes Silang Santa Rosa River is the major waterway here. This is why the City is River Clean-Ups are held regularly.

Ayaw ng Plastik Campaign Pahugtin Tour. To encourage residents and stakeholders to refuse plastic bags, Mayor Arlene B. Arellas distributed eco-bags during the so-called Pahugtin Tour held last February.

No Smoking Campaign. To be a model for a smoke-free city. This is the primary goal of the City Government of Santa Rosa as it launched its No Smoking Campaign last March 16.

Mayor Arlene B. Arellas during the Brigada Eskwela. City Mayor Arlene B. Arellas paints fences during the kick-off ceremony of Brigada Eskwela Plus.

Assessment Servicing at Santa Rosa Manpower Training Center. With the belief that development will only be relevant and significant if the people possess the necessary skills demanded by the times and needs of the City, Mayor Arcillas constantly supports the programs of the City's Manpower Training Center

Alternative Learning System. Number of learners in the Alternative Learning System Classes, Accreditation and Equivalency Program increased from 501 in 2010 to 864 in 2011.

Feeding Program for Special Education Students. In keeping with the City's goal of addressing even malnourished children, Mayor Arcillas also participates in feeding program for schoolchildren, including the special children.

DOING GREAT AT 8

Pintuage B2.1

Balancing development and environmental protection

Mayor Arcillas is also pushing for sustainable development, balancing the vision for a progressive city and protecting the environment. This she has done through the passage of City Ordinance No. 1729-2011 or the City Environment Code, which is now being implemented.

A first in Laguna, the code is a comprehensive compilation of rules and regulations to effectively manage the environment in the City of Santa Rosa thereby helping mitigate climate change and other environmental problems. It has provisions for Land Resource Management, Air Quality and Noise Management and Energy Saving Practices, Water Resources Management, Integrated Waste Management, and Institutional Mechanisms.

"For the past seven years, Santa Rosa as a City has been resilient in helping the country achieve its Millennium Development Goal on Environment Sustainability. And now, we can also help maintain the country's ranking in the latest National Environmental Performance Index (EPI) conducted by U.S. universities," said Mayor Arcillas.

The Mayor is referring to the Philippines ranking 42nd among 132 countries under the "strong performance" category in the Socio-Environmental Performance Index (EPI) prepared by the Yale and Columbia universities.

"Our City is determined to promote sustainable development. Meaning, we will meet our people's needs while ensuring that the provisions of the environmental and sustainability of our resources," she asserted.

Serving the people

Let us bring our services directly to the people." This was the declaration of Mayor Arcillas as officially launched the Mayor's Caravan.

Officially dubbed as SERBISYONG MAKATAO CARAVAN, HANDOG AY MAYOR ARLENE NA MAMAMAYAN, the caravan brings basic services to the deprived areas of the City of Santa Rosa.

"Our commitment to deprived communities deserves to have access to the local government's basic services. However, most of these do not have the means, such as transportation fare, to avail of these, it is our obligation to bring these services to directly to them," she explained.

Through the Mayor's Caravan, residents in deprived communities of the City of Santa Rosa can avail of basic services at least once a year without having to go the Santa Rosa Community Hospital, the local government-owned hospital or the rural health units.

The caravan is held in line with the primary advocacy of the City Government of Santa Rosa encapsulated in the slogan Serbisyong Makatao, Lungsod na Makabago.

It was first held in September 2009, covering all of the 18 barangays in the city and served all of the basic services of the local government ranging from medical and dental check-ups to birth registration. Over livelihood training demonstrations to job facilitation.

Moving forward

As the City of Santa Rosa begins its journey towards its ninth year, Mayor Arcillas said that "while our revenue increases, our expenditures remain prudent pouring investments to essential programs and projects that will aid the efficient and effective delivery of services to the people."

The City Hall, the nucleus and center-friendly seat of government in the hub of government services, will soon become a one-stop government center with the completion of the Proposed City Hall Extension Building.

In the pipeline is the Proposed Sports Complex, which is envisioned to be the center of major events in the city that will draw investors to the city and provide additional revenue and will promote the city as a cultural, sports and recreation center in the province.

The city's Flood Control and Drainage Master Plan has been finalized. Among its components is the funding and implementation measures of Santa Rosa as major input in updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan to incorporate the disaster-risk reduction management.

The Aplaya in Santa Rosa Strategic Project, meanwhile, is a public-private sector project aimed at bringing the development and progress to the subdivision barangays of the city. The Joint Venture Selection Committee for the project has been created by virtue of the Special Order signed by Mayor Arcillas and Provincial Chairman Edgardo Pinpin and PBEC as of June 2011.

The City Government of Santa Rosa, just like any other LGUs, is mandated to provide basic development services under the Local Government Code. Over the years starting with the administration of the late Mayor Lou Arcillas, Santa Rosa achieved a phenomenal level of growth and development through its sensitive infrastructure programs and projects. The quality of life of the ordinary residents improved dramatically. The local government believes that by doing so, the level of productivity of the local people would also improve contributing to the progress and development of the community and the whole nation.

The City of Santa Rosa is indeed moving forward. Its governance model coupled by a strong revenue base will result in a more efficient and effective delivery of basic services. This will put the city in a better position as it seeks to compete with other local governments in terms of investments, and provide the needs of its people.

"Serbisyong Makatao, Lungsod na Makabago"

THE CITY OF Santa Rosa

Mayor ARLENE B. ARCILLAS

Lito Thelma Simon San Juan

LIFESTYLE Wellness

Why even non-athletes are 'rocktaping'

It's said to enhance sports performance and address injuries

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

TRIATHLETE-CHIROPRACTOR Marvin Camara is an avid user of athletic tape. When he literally road-tested an Australian brand called Rocktape on the iconic Ironman Ironstar Inaugural Century 11.50 in Subic, he was impressed.

To overhaul the athletic tapes, he applied one brand on his calf and Rocktape on the other leg in the same exact pattern. While training for the run, he observed that the other brand started to peel off after five days of action training in running, biking and swimming.

On the day of the race, which was also Camara's first Olympic-distance triathlon, he applied the Australian athletic tape on his calves and quadriceps. "It helped support me during the challenging, albeit exhilarating race course, preventing recovery while I pushed my body through the water, roads and golf course to the finish line. Once off the bike, my calves started to cramp. I honestly feel that if it weren't for the Rocktape, it would have escalated to the point where I may not have been able to finish the race."

Camara first learned of Rocktape when his patient, triathlete-executive Wilfred Uytengsu, gave it to him as a pontoobong.

Uytengsu had just competed in Ironkids World Championships in Hawaii, one of the world's most demanding endurance races. The president of Sunrise Foods and chief of the Polo Club triathlon team said the tape stayed put on his body for the full marathon.

Lifting mechanism

Ever since the Beijing 2008 Olympics, colorful athletic tapes have been replacing the zinc-based porous tapes that rigidly strap the joints for support and compression. While these tapes can impede circulation and movements, the new generation of athletic or kinesiology tapes are made of cotton and elastic fibers woven all the way through. Their pliability facilitates movement while supporting the muscles. These tapes are favored by athletes for the immediate benefit of pain reduction and improved range of motion.

Many brands of kinesiology or athletic tapes have emerged for a variety of uses. Available in retail outlets, they are either taped over the injured area or they follow the movement of the connective muscles and tissues. They are tagged in many degrees of tension, customized to the wearer's condition.

Applied to a slew of patterns such as stripes, crisscross and fan shapes, the tape provides support, corrects postural problems and increases lymphatic drainage.

Rocktape Inc. markets its tapes to consumers as an enhancer of athletic performance. Unlike traditional athletic tape that binds but doesn't stretch, Rocktape is made of a special cotton weave that mimics the elasticity of human skin. It easily picks up the skin to establish

more www.c1

CHIROPRACTIC specialist Marvin Camara tapes triathlete May Joyanes. "Taping helps in the recovery and the sport. It's like pointing an extra muscle," says Camara.

DR. BRENT Dolor tapes the neck of yoga instructor Tessa Edelman to support the proper spinal alignment, which can sometimes go out of whack when exercises are not done properly.

TRIATHLETE-EXECUTIVE Fred Uytengsu gets taped by Franc Auto of Intersans.

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SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Buffet, spa, prizes, fashion walk–pets glam it up for their four-legged fellows

The recent second Bow & Wow Benefit Dinner raised money for rescued pit bulls in Laguna

By Rose A. Jardines

FOUR-LEGGED GUESTS and their owners, all dressed to the nines, graced the recent second Bow & Wow Benefit Dinner at the Sunkissed Tent, Sunkissed Country Mahindi Cebu. The time will: Coast Wellness Philo. no boundaries. The event raised a total of P495,000 in ticket sales plus P100,000 in donations from Bow & Wow executives, with more funds coming from the silent auction.

That's more than twice the amount raised last year during the first fundraiser for Bow & Wow Black Cat to Benefit Dinner for the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, which raised P200,000. As with last year, all ticket proceeds go straight to the beneficiary.

The successful event saw the furry guests of honor treated to a pet buffet dinner prepared by Bow & Wow chefs with wet and dry goodies and delightful pet desserts prepared by sweet owners. The pet princess, meanwhile, enjoyed a buffet spread by Cibo and excellent wines from Wine Society.

As a pet spa owner, some pets enjoyed free grooming and pampering from professionals. Hosted by the Princess Tour Pinto-Velez, the dinner entertainment included the performance of master magician Lou Mirasol.

Unique finds

The silent auction featured unique finds, including designer pet beds by Filipino designers Rajo Laurel and Mia Alonzo, JC Buendia, John and Paul Rivera, Judy Belmonte of "Forever Makeover," and Bow & Wow's Velez-Velez. Designer couture items and luxury celebrity dinner ensembles from pet couture designer Bernie Alfonso Leyrit: a pet wheelchair, package from Bonito Ark, and many more.

Some pet patrons and their furry kins were walked the runway for the "Walk of Love," where Prince Eddie, owner, signed guests who are thinking about getting pets not to buy, but to adopt instead from animal shelters.

Special awards were also given away, including the Bow & Wow Passionate Pawrenter Award for Best Rescued Pet and Pet Parent, the Bow & Wow Wagging Tails Award for the most congenial pet and pet parent, the Bow & Wow Fierce Fashion Award for the most photogenic pet and pet parent, and the Bow & Wow Furry Family Award for the cutest pet and family.

Winners each went home with P1,500 GCs and design department from Bow & Wow, plus a Magnum box of Forever Pure shoes from Rustic Optima.

Seen at the benefit dinner were celebrity guests Jeanne de Belen and her family, Regine Tolentino, Vivian Lee and Melvin Buna, celebrity trainer Kim Lopezi, actor Jessica Garcia, singer/actor Nikki Limpot, actor Ruiz Pineda and retired business Mimi Lopez.

Stiffer penalties

Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy, sponsor of the measure because of her siblings, was also present to show her support. The congresswoman, author of House Bill No. 5049, said she is seeking stiffer penalties for animal abuse.

"We see images of animal abuse on the Internet all the time, and even then we apprehend abusers they get away with it so easily because our laws are so old and outdated," she said.

House Bill No. 5049 will also address issues such as mandatory spaying and neutering, dog pooling in townships, the holding of no-dog shelters, prohibition of putting live animals in cages beds of buses or trunks of cars, regulation of pet owners and private animal control companies to prevent them from treating dogs in cruel, inhumane manner, prohibition of dog and cat breeders, among others.

"Kulob raised tonight will be used to finance our Love the Laguna Pit Bulls project. These rescued animals are literally found on the verge of death. We have been getting donations from concerned citizens, but it's really not enough," said Nancy Co Lynping, president, Compassion and Responsibility for Animals (Cara) Welfare Phils.

Close to 250 pit bulls were rescued last April from a human syndicate operating dog-fighting arena in Laguna. The rescued pit bulls need medication, food, water and care while in rehabilitation.

Cara also has over 100 rescued pets in its care, all residing in the homes of their members, waiting for adoption, since they do not have a shelter. To adopt a pet, visit carapbl.org for more info.

What is soul memory?

HAVE YOU ever noticed the instant attraction and support you feel with people you never for the first time? How about the instant repulsion, betrayal, fear and mistrust you just met?

This is due to conscionsness of past life encounters with that person, which your mind cannot understand but which your soul never forgets. The soul remembers and knows every significant event that happened to it in previous lives.

Reincarnation

Although Christianity rejects the concept of reincarnation, that a person can have multiple rebirths on the earth plane, it is an accepted fact by such oldest religions as Hinduism and Buddhism. In fact, the only sect of third believes in reincarnation are Islam and Christianity.

The idea that people have lived previous lives is supported by many in this country not only because of the Christian religion but also because of the seemingly strong argument that no one has ever recalled his past lives and verified them.

This is not true at all. There are fully documented and verified recollections of past life by people of varied social, economic and academic backgrounds.

The late Dr. Ian Stevenson, head of the Psychiatry Department at the University of Virginia, investigated and documented at least 2,000 cases of spontaneous recall of past lives by children ages 3-12. He systematically followed each child's total memory through several lifetimes and verified them.

If a child says he/she was married such and such, lived and died in a particular country, Dr. Stevenson would trace that child's life in that country and often he would find them to be true and accurate, although the childhood never ran into those country in this present life.

Dr. Stevenson chose to study children who have had spontaneous recall of their past lives, unlike those adults, because he said children are more truthful about what they have seen and felt and this have not troubled much and tend to many books to be influenced by them. Of course, this was in a time the internet was not yet pervasive.

Shanti Devi

One of the most memorable cases Dr. Ian Stevenson investigated and documented was that of an Indian child, Shanti Devi.

When she was only 3, she told her mother that her name was not Shanti Devi but Lugdi Devi and that she died giving birth to her second child, like another dismissed Shanti's story is a product of a child's imagination.

When she was 9, Shanti insisted on going back to Mathura, the village where she had lived as Lugdi Devi. It was more than 50 miles away from where she lived in her present life.

On only a mere hint about the village where Lugdi Devi lived came to the town of Shanti and met her mother. When her mother inquired if there was indeed a lady named Lugdi Devi who lived in that town and who died giving birth to a child, the man said "yes" and that he knew the family very well.

It was at this point that Dr. Stevenson was informed about this case and decided to verify the child's story by accompanying her to Mathura.

To test the story short, every detail of what Shanti Devi had told her was confirmed to be true, including such intimate details as how her husband made love to Lugdi Devi.

Rev. Emery

Another documented story is the case of a Presbyterian minister, Rev. Emery, who did not believe in reincarnation, being a Christian pastor. Rev. Emery was with friends touring the ancient sites in Egypt.

While the group was climbing the Great Pyramid of Giza, Rev. Emery stopped at the middle; he was perspiring profusely and had a terrified look.

Unknown to the group, what Rev. Emery was seeing was himself, as one of the slaves building the pyramid. At the exact spot where he stood, he saw a stone they were pulling up into a hole, landing on him and killing him on the spot.

The fact that he was at the very spot where he died in a previous life brought back the soul memory of his past life as a slave in ancient Egypt.

From that point on, Rev. Emery recalled every place they went to and would even tell his companions what they would find or see, and he was never wrong. From that time on, Rev. Emery, a Christian minister, changed his view about reincarnation and became a true believer.

Mr. and Academic Kinesiologist Reinforcement seminar will be on July 14, 2-7 p.m., while the Basic ESP and Intuitive Dev't will be on July 28-29 at the 300 Penny Area. For details, call 416-7224, 8330888, 0920-9838962, 0920-9838963. E-mail jeanescanlar@yahoo.com, or visit www.innerawareness.com.

Why even non-athletes . . .

a small space between the muscle and dermis layers. That space relieves the pressure off inflamed muscles and creates space for drainage and blood flow.

"Lactic acid and other metabolites are released faster during the sport—affecting the overall performance of the muscle. This becomes more apparent during athletic events which the muscle's ability to process lactic acid gets affected by fatigue. The lifting mechanism also mechanically distracts the area and can decompress nerve endings, muscles and the interstitial spaces (fluid compartments). The tape is likened to putting an additional layer of connective tissue. It can connect and correct the pulling of these muscles.

"The tape also enhances sensory input to the brain. The added input from the tape can enhance proprioception, the individual's sense of position in time and space. This is important for sport and for increasing alert an injury. The rush, or elevation in blood circulation. Getting blood in and out of an area facilitates more oxygen to the tissues that are working hard to perform the activity."

Healing faster

Sometimes, the athlete tape is applied from neck to feet.

Conners explained: "Our bodies work in a chain of muscles, tissues and ligaments working together to make movement possible. Performance is related to all of these individual elements working together in a finely coordinated manner, orchestrated by our nervous system and our mind. The tape enhances the feedback from the skin to the nervous system. This in turn improves the connection and makes it work more efficiently."

Taping can help runners and distance sports cope with some minor injuries such as plantar fasciitis (inflammation and pain in the bottom of the foot due to its repetitive pounding on a hard surface) and shin splints (pain in the shin bone).

"For hamstring strains and knee pain, it can help decompress the tissues to support the hamstring. It can even provide feedback from the muscles which can slow down running speeds, strides or form," said Conners.

He observed that tennis players and golfers often complain of pain on their lower backs and elbows. "The repetitive, unbalanced nature of the sport can put more pressure on one part of their body. Backtape can help minimize the stress of the lower back that can occur on the left upon, thereby minimizing more serious back injuries from occurring. The proprioceptive input from the tape can also enhance the 'control' component of the sport—the athlete's sense of position in space. Golfers and club or cricket. Tennis elbow or golfers' elbow is caused by the strain placed on the elbow from flexion and extension. When left untreated, this can even lead to severe compression syndrome. Backtape helps support the area, relieving the stress off that elbow."

Acts like a cradle

At the Backtape workshop, Marcellino, chiropractor Brent Dellin, who conducted the seminar, explained: "This tape was developed with athletes in mind. It looked at all aspects of the sport—proprioception, stress and recover system. We mainly since it's got tubes, stretch and support. Kinesiology tape. The adhesive doesn't contain latex so there are less allergic reactions, and it lasts the skin benefits very well."

In Australia, Dellin says that athletes tape on shoulder injuries to support the muscles in football and rowing. He also utilizes it in low back, knee and hamstring injuries in basketball and football. "The tape allows you to play if there's a mild injury. It can get you through a game sport of the tape. It allows healing quickly. A five-week injury is reduced to four weeks. For a professional sportsman, it's important."

He noted others more of the taping benefits of injury, such as pulling back the joining chin from being stooped in front of the computer or supporting pregnant women in their full term.

It even helps runners recover from a tendon hurry in Rockhope Sports Medicine for a decompression bandage.

Dellin has applied it on all ages, from as young as a two-year-old to senior citizens. Irritants with comfort pain; the toddler had tape on her left leg to help her walk better. "It's about restraining the bone and stimulating the proper muscle function through taping," said Dellin.

Aside teaching patients how to handle their shoulders when they develop breasts, "The taping puts their shoulder back in place, but it's an additional tool. It will help them know they have a posture issue," said Dellin.

For elderly patients, the taper puts their toes, shoulders and arms into position after a hard fall.

The tape has been applied around the joints of patients after a knee replacement to assist for the knee caps.

He added that when the bone or abdomen gets too heavy for the muscles of their backs, a tape is applied under it and sets like a cradle. "It works well for medicare struggling with the heaviness," he said.

Likewise, it can also be applied around thickened tendons to relieve the swelling.

Although taping is effective when done by trained clinicians, manufacturers offer assessment videos and flyers. Consumers of Sea Klaps can log on to website www.ph.go.to they can book how to apply it.

"In the end, the taping is all about supporting the muscle and taking the pressure off the joints," said Dellin.

Backtape is distributed by Innovative Med. Call at: 8993333 or 757-7246(O), 0917-8963

Facebook can make you fat

By Mikaël Felipe Mendoza
Contributor

WE USE social networking sites like Twitter, Facebook and Skype to virtually "connect" with people, updating each other with regular status reports and giving (and receiving) feedback about them. Sometimes working more readily provide us with what we personally, professionally and socially need—and everything for free.

Negative impact

However, we should also be aware of the negative impact of social networking in our life. Staying on these sites takes so much of your time, especially if you have no self-discipline. And, notice how painful comments affect our thoughts and actions.

Several articles and studies worldwide have shown how social networking sites like Facebook can create a negative perception of one's body and weight when comparing one's photos with the photos of friends. Facebook users usually post photos of themselves at their best body shape and clothes. People with self-esteem and body image issues can become easily affected by these hand-to-touch images, just like when seeing photos of models and celebrities in television, magazines and newspapers. According to mental health specialists, people get more affected by Facebook photos of others because these are real, as Photoshopped photos of people they know like family members and friends.

Statistics

Results of an online survey for 500 Facebook users age 16-40 conducted by the researchers of Center for Eating Disorders at Sheppard Pratt in Baltimore show that:

- 50 percent became more conscious of their body and weight after looking at photos of themselves;
- 44 percent wish they had the same body or weight as a friend when checking Facebook photos;
- 37 percent feel that they need to alter some parts of their body when they compare their bodies to their friends';
- 33 percent feel and relax comparing their own Facebook photos to their friends' photos;
- 31 percent have prevented themselves from eating specific food items, food groups or entire categories of food so as to attempt to control their weight;
- 17 percent have engaged in binge eating;
- 12 percent have or have had an eating disorder (such as anorexia or bulimia);
- 7 percent have tried purging (such as vomiting or laxatives);
- but only 25 percent are happy with their present weight.

Eighty percent of the respondents visit Facebook once a day and more (but half of them log on numerous times a day. This implies that constants Facebook use may affect one's body image, and can lead to weight obsession and preoccupation, unhealthy dieting practices and eating disorders as results of social comparisons among Facebook peers.

Both young and old can be negatively affected by too much Facebook time. In fact, a study this year conducted by professors at the University of Haifa shows that the more frequent an adolescent girl (average age: 14.6) spends on Facebook, the more chances of developing various eating disorders and negative body image.

How to use Facebook to avoid body image and self-esteem issues:

- If you easily get affected by Facebook photos of your friends as they show their best life and body shapes, take a break and observe how it shows in your thoughts and actions. Then make time and effort to reinforce your body and weight issues by talking to a counselor, friends, loved ones or someone you find comfortable sharing your concerns with.
- Instead of social networking, engage in activities that will improve your body image, like exercises that can make you feel good about yourself (dancing, yoga, running) and reading self-help books that will modify your thinking.
- Always put in mind that your own thoughts and feelings are important to your overall health. Knowing this, you will not allow updates and photos of others to cause you undue stress and negative emotions.
- Learn to manage your time when using Facebook. Set a calendar and just give yourself a few minutes to update your status and/or check updates you find meaningful and important to you.
- Avoid focusing too much on physical appearance and instructions that include weight obsession, too much dieting and over-exercising. Shift your attention to positive feelings and thoughts. Say, "Wow, you look so happy and fulfilled spending your weekend with your family. You inspire me!" instead of, "You look so thin and sexy in your outfit!"
- Instead of allowing yourself to feel insecure about others' looks and accomplishments, reinforce your thoughts. Believe that you can always be at your best without comparing yourself to others. Better yet, be an inspiration to others.
- Parents, be involved in your children's online activities. One study conducted by the University of Haifa shows that parents who were aware of their adolescent daughters' media usage showed more personal empowerment of their daughters, leading to a protective guard against eating disorders.

E-mail the author at mmhfelipe@gmail.com, follow her on twitter @mmhfelipe

PEOPLE are said to get more affected by Facebook photos of others because these are real, unlike Photoshopped photos of people they know.

Breakthrough procedure gives hope to heart patients

PATIENTS with severe aortic valve disease have new hope as effective treatment through the advanced medical procedure known as Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI), which are now being done at St. Luke's Medical Center. From February this year, the hospital has performed nine TAVR procedures with a 100 percent success rate.

TAVR is a minimally invasive procedure designed to treat severe aortic valve stenosis, or the narrowing of the aortic valve. It improves the pumping effectiveness of the heart, improves the quality of life and prolongs life. Aortic stenosis is commonly a result of severe valve calcification and degeneration, which causes aortic valve narrowing and cardiac or heart dysfunction in the elderly.

Headed by highly experienced interventional cardiologist Pablo Enrique B. Perez and Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Ma. Teresita Asuncion, the St. Luke's TAVR team is composed of leading Filipino cardiac anesthesiologists, cardiac imaging specialists, critical care team and well-trained cardiovascular laboratory personnel as well as critical care nurses.

The St. Luke's team expects to complete its 18th procedure this second half of 2013. This milestone will earn the hospital and its team of physicians the certification as independent TAVR operators so they can perform treatments without the presence of a proctor.

With this certification, St. Luke's will be included among select international hospitals certified as TAVR centers. In South East Asia, St. Luke's joins a handful of hospitals in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand that offers TAVR.

While open-heart surgery is still considered the gold standard for the manage-

BREAKTHROUGH C4

LAB-TESTED NA SIKSIK, PERO 'DI KASING MAHAL

Based on lab tests, NIDO 3+ is siksik with these special ingredients and essential nutrients kumpara sa mahal na 3+ milk:

Only one with Lactobacillus PROTECTUS

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More Protein

More Calcium + Vitamins and Minerals

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Lactobacillus PROTECTUS, unique to NIDO 3+, is a combination of two kinds of good bacteria, Lactobacillus paracasei and Bifidobacterium longum, that helps protect your child.

Prebio3, exclusive to NIDO 3+, is a unique blend of dietary fiber that promotes healthy digestive system.

Protein is important for the growth and muscle development of children.

Calcium is essential for strong bones and teeth.

DHA supports brain development.

NIDO 3+

Your Love. Their Future.

Your health questions answered

SO MANY questions, too little time and not enough space to answer them all. Here are your emails answered replies to health, beauty and wellness concerns.

Q: I am on a fish and vegetable diet. Which in particular have the strongest health benefits?

It's good you know that food can be your medicine—or your poison. Going on a fish and vegetable diet is the best thing you can do to save your heart and improve your complexion. That's because your regimen is rich in omega 3, vitamin C and vitamin E, among others.

Glutathione, found in the pigments of the foods you eat, such as lycopene (the red in tomatoes) and lutein (found in dark, leafy greens), offer high levels of resistants helpful in the fight against cancer, as well as eye and skin problems.

Anthocyanins contained in chili peppers, cabbage, lettuce, spinach, broccoli, kale and green beans, boost the immune system.

Found in fish, diamondfish is more potent than vitamin E in supplement form.

Good for the heart, rich in omega 3 fatty acids and a good source of DHA& (which improves muscle tone and fine lines in the face), diadon ordens as considered King of Superfoods. Others thus belong to this quantity food range are crabs, scrod, shrimp and lobster. Note these rules, which give us a chance their unconditional protection. However, with all the talk about hormone-disrupting, pesticide-ravaging babies of ours, because some health advocates reject these altogether. That is, if you are realistic about your health choices.

Q: Is there a better way to lose weight without compromising my enjoyment of life?

Yes there is. But it requires a reprogramming of your needs and desires. Let down your pleasures, as in comfort foods and habits.

Example: Yes, find exercising a love and you're a shoo-in-die. Or you skip breakfast because you sleep late and rush up before noon.

A close examination of your lifestyle is crucial to the fulfillment of your wellness goals. Do you have impatience? Channel this energy toward your ultimate objective—to look and feel better than ever before. Be honest with yourself. There are a few commitments you must make if you want results.

I don't believe in the adage 'no pain, no gain.' If it all, no discipline, no delight, but definitely you will be delighted with yourself.

In my hands, a little more now and then is good. Rewarding yourself with chocolate or longer sleeping hours will not derail you from your purpose. On the contrary it should inspire you all the more. Just don't finish the entire box of chocolates or stay sitting!

Know that losing weight isn't just for vanity—it's for your health.

By making yourself lighter, you will prevent heart disease and diabetes, improve bone health and reduce stress and strengthen the immune system.

Exercise makes you happy. The neuropeptide beta-endorphin was found to significantly reduce pain and promote feelings of euphoria. In short, exercise fights depression and anxiety disorder.

Combine sunlight (sentence with) outdoor activities as well as flexibility exercises.

1. Join a club—dancing, running, biking, swimming—anything that makes you move. If you don't exercise, you will do zero bone a great injustice.

2. Sign up for yoga or Pilates.

3. Be a party member.

Refuse to eat from now on: fish, vegetables, chicken without the skin, lean meat. If you must, spare of oil kind, especially canola's, found in cures, has anti-aging benefits.

4. Drink plenty of water, a minimum of eight glasses daily.

Health smoothie

1. Mix 2 tbsp of kefir with 7 tbsp of yoghurt. Add your favorite fruits, lemon juice or banana.

2. Add 1 tbsp toasted old-fashioned oatmeal.

3. Add a big squeeze of raw whole orange. Drink up.

Remember to exercise daily. By doing so, you can eat almost anything you want in moderation.

I don't believe in the efficacy of fat burners or diet supplements of popular diet circuits. So if you intend to eat and not subtract exercising, these alarming supplements will not work at all.

Cooking up: Include the herb rosemary in your recipes. Apart from being aromatic, it also has antispasmodic benefits (especially dysmenorrhea) and relieves respiratory disorders.

Rosemary is also linked to a memory enhancer. In the Middle Ages, it was dubbed the herb of remembrance. In many aromatherapy as well as a seasoning for meats, add rosemary to the kitchen and sundries. Or simply place it in a pot of boiling water to make a relaxing tea.

If you allow it to chill, add a few sprinkles on your hair as optics.

Affair today: "Mondo-no-coming on way"

Love and light

MediCard
Founded by Doctors

Take Charge, Doc!

HEALTHY RECIPE II

For this healthy spaghetti recipe from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute. It's good enough for kids to enjoy, and it has hidden vegetables and milk in it for added nutrients!

Ingredients

½ kg spaghetti, cooked as directed
½ cup margarine, melted
2 tbsp garlic, minced
½ cup onion, chopped
½ cup pork loin, ground
½ cup spaghetti sauce, ready-to-use
½ cup tomato sauce, bottled
1 ½ cups water
½ cup condensed milk
½ cup carrots, chopped
½ cup boneless chicken breast, cubed, chopped
½ cup button mushrooms, chopped
½ cup cheese, bottled, grated
½ tsp salt
½ tsp black pepper, ground

Cook spaghetti noodles as instructed on the package. Drain and set aside. Over low fire, melt margarine and sauté garlic, onions, and pork. Simmer as soon as 10 minutes. Add spaghetti sauce, catsup, water and condensed milk. Simmer as soon as 5 minutes. Add vegetables and boil for 3 minutes. Simmer as soon as 10 minutes. Add salt and pepper. Put spaghetti on a platter. Spread the cooked meat mixture. Add cheese and garnish with the remaining cheese. Stay adventure cheese if desired.

Yield: 8 cups noodles and 1 1/2 cups sauce or 1 serving/plate
Serving size: 1 cup noodles + ½ cup sauce
Nutrient content per serving: Energy 340 kcal, Protein 17.5g, Carbohydrate 47mg, Iron 2.3mg, Calcium 67.7mg, Fat 9g, Phosphorus 87.5mg, Riboflavin 0.30mg, Niacin 14.4mg, Thiamine 0.19mg

Food Nutrition Research Institute
DOST Compound, Gen. Santos Drive, Bicutan, Taguig City
Telephone Nos. 837-2071 to 82 loc. 2100, 2101, 2102
Fax No. 837-2931
Email: fnri@pacific.net.ph

Breakthrough procedure . . .

From page C3

natural of nerves, cytoplasmic nerve stimuli, it requires complex surgical techniques, the use of heart lung machines and may be associated with prolonged recovery, long hospital stay and significant risk of mortality and complications.

Unlike open heart surgery, TAVR replaces diseased and severely narrowed aortic valves with a new biosynthetic valve that is sized, often deployed using a catheter inserted through a patient's groin arteries. Its selected position, as can even be performed under sedation. The procedure can be completed in about 1 ½ hours and allows for a shorter, less painful, less stressful and more rapid recovery time.

For inquiries on how TAVR can help you or a loved one, call Dr. Cairo Medical Center Global City's Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at 7897700 ext. 3225.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie G. Velarde

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6cyclemind leaves comfort zone, releases 'more mature' album

6CYCLEMIND performs at their CD launch

Allan Policarpio
Contributor

FOR 10 long years, Ney Dimayuga was the voice of 6cyclemind and its army of hit songs, which included "Bigkas," "Bandalan," "Aurantes" and "Kasalanan."

So, when the four-man, rising hotshot, quit in 2011, the responsibility of stepping up to the lead vocals fell on drummer Tutoy Cartagena's lap.

Aside from new other original members Ryc Sacramento (rhythm guitar) and Bob Cabanos (bass), the band recruited former frontman Jessie (lead guitar) and Vic Aquino (drums) for its current lineup.

In the first few months as frontman/lead vocalist, Tutoy admitted crying in copycat Ney's style "because that's what people were used to."

Soon enough, Tutoy realized that he had to begin establishing his own identity by tailor-fitting the band's repertoire to his vocal range and stage showmanship.

"We thought, 'Why not change the arrangements?' We remixed up the pace of some of the songs and made them more rock," Tutoy told the media at the recent launch of the band's sixth and latest album, "Good By Sunday" (Inexponet Records) at "70s Bistro in Quezon City.

"Right now we try to be more engaging, interactive during live performances. There's more presence," Rob added.

Surviving

The criticisms and comparisons with Ney were inevitable, but Tutoy had taken them all in stride. What's important, he pointed out, was that the band "survived the storm." And with the assistance of musician friends such as Raimund Marasigan and Jessie Gramo, the band pressed on to write new material.

Raimund and Jessie, who both play for the new band Gojira, produced and helped arrange the 11 tracks on "Good By Sunday." Raimund also took on the drum parts, as Vic still wasn't officially a full-fledged member at the time of the recording.

Buddy Labala stepped in as vocal coach.

Though the album pretty much retained the pop-rock formula that had hooked the fans, Tutoy said they got out of their comfort zones to create the kind of songs that they hadn't done before, first one, the hard beat/siren fronting to Pau Pighters and other heavier stuff, and this enhanced the songwriting for the new album.

"When you listen to it, it's still Ney

6CYCLEMIND 21

'Walang Hanggan' soundtrack vol. 2 overtakes Daniel Padilla

TOP SELLING albums in the country for the week June 25-July 1, based on Odyssey Music & Videos nationwide sales reports:

Overall

1) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan, Vol. 2," Star Records; 2) Daniel Padilla, "Daniel Padilla," Star; 3) Justin Bieber, "Believe," MCA Music; 4) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan (Soundtrack)," Star; 5) Maroon 5, "Overexposed," MCA; 6) Yoel Cabangcat, "Kahit Isang Bituin," Universal Records; 7) One Direction, "Up All Night," Sony Music; 8) Various Artists, "Love Songs From

TRILANES' 03

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO

Ryan Cayabyab envisioned 'a music festival that would produce the best songs from the best creative minds, young and old'

THE FINALISTS. First row (from left): James Reyes, Tess Reviosa, Thyra Alfaro; second row (from left): Kristi Meloco, Keiko Necesario, Bernard Fariscal, Noah Zuñiga, Nina Bolasoño, Gary Granada, Edwin Marcelino; third row (from left): Miles Villegas, Byron Brosnan, Kari Villegas. (See in photo is Ian Villanueva.)

KOCHAKA CONCEPCION

Philpop finals on July 14

By Pocholo Concepcion

RYAN Cayabyab has been through a lot of stress lately due to controversies he had to resolve as executive director of the Philippine Popular Music Festival or Philpop—a new nationwide songwriting competition inspired by its 1970s predecessor, Metropop.

Immediately after the announcement of the 14 finalists, Mr. C was besieged by protests due two of those who made it had previously posted their respective song entries on YouTube.

Then a Facebook page, dubbed "Philpop scandal," was put up by a group that questioned the competition rules, the manner of screening the entries, and the inclusion of previously songwriting winners Gary Granada and Ryan Bellarmine as finalists.

The furor invariably reflects the torching pains that Philpop is going through.

Top 14

The top 14 songs, which will compete during finals night on July 14 at the Philippine International Convention Center, are: "3 a.m." by Reiko Stromberg, "Bigkas," Bolasoño; "Minsan Isang Buwan," Granada, "Remembrance" by Villanueva; "Hating ng Panahon," Timothy Angelo Alfaro; "Kiss," Edwin S. Marcelino; "Pito," Kristoffersen B. Meloco; "Dulo ng Dila," Noah Zuñiga; "Tahan," Byron Brosnan; "Tayo-Tayo Lang," Rosalie M. Bolasoño; "Bossa," James R. Reyes; "Sayaw Hakbang," Bard Vincent H. Villegas; "Sequence," Michael Angelo Villegas; and "Destination," John Leonard Edwards Pacson.

The winner will receive P1 million; first runner-up, P500,000; second runner-up, P250,000; the rest P50,000 each. The song with the highest number of text votes will get the People's Choice Award plus P100,000 in cash. (Log on to philpop.com.ph for details.)

Philpop issues

The buzz now... no sooner than its screening were those 3,000 entries—edited 60 C ran e-mail to discuss Philpop's inception and the unexpected disputes.

Whose idea was Philpop and how did the MVP (Manuel V. Pangilinan) group come into the picture?

Last last year, a group of executives had an informal get-together and talked about why there weren't any more great Filipino songs, such as those from the Metropop era. It wasn't long before they said, "Why not bring Metropop back?"

Last January, they contacted me and broached the idea of launching a nationwide songwriting competition that was like the Metropop. Manolet presidents/CEO Ricky Vargas and senior vice president Patrick Gregorio talked me to join them in a meeting about this exciting project. To raise funds for this, corporate brothers was necessary. Most of the MVP group of companies supported the idea.

People say the 1970s was a golden age in Pinoy music. Has the quality of contemporary local music really declined or is it just a problem of funding?

I don't believe quality has declined. It's just that tastes and fads change. Live show orchestras gave way to small bands

PHILPOP 02

CAPTION B. "Change is constant."

GET THE LIMITED EDITION
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
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BUCKET TREATS!

Fans of the friendly neighborhood superhero are in for an exciting treat as Jollibee brings everyone's favorite Chickenjoy in a limited edition Amazing Spider-Man reusable bucket! As the web-slinging hero swings back to the big screen this July, families and friends will definitely enjoy their Spider-Man experience more while savoring a satisfying bucket of the crispylicious and juicylicious Chickenjoy.

Enjoy more bonding time over a 6-piece or 8-piece Chickenjoy Amazing Spider-Man bucket upgrade as you witness Spider-Man's heroic moments. For only P475, get the 6-piece Chickenjoy with 3 spaghetti and 3 regular drinks. And for just P585, you can get 5 rice and 5 regular drinks to go with your favorite fried chicken bucket. Or upgrade to an 8-piece bucket with 4 rice and 4 regular drinks for only P681, or with 4 spaghetti and 4 regular drinks at an affordable price of P681. You can also take home the Amazing Spider-Man reusable bucket by purchasing the 6-piece (P431) or 8-piece (P621) Chickenjoy solo bucket.

The Jollibee Chickenjoy Spider-Man bucket is available from June 22 to July 15, 2012 in all Jollibee stores nationwide for dine in, drive-thru take-out, and delivery. For delivery, call 8-7000 Jollibee Express Delivery or log on to www.jollibeedelivery.com. Hurry and head to Jollibee for your Chickenjoy Spider-Man bucket now. The Amazing Spider-Man opens to theaters on June 20.

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPH BY JESS HERON

PUGAD BABOY BY PAN LUMICK

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVEMONTS BY ELIZABETH HORNGLO

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RUKO MACHINE BY PANKA ABRERA

DEFH BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TOLDEO BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's easy to be impatient today. Therefore, acknowledge this and don't let your ego get in the way. Be considerate and cooperative.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might get more done working behind the scenes or working alone today. Don't push the issue and don't accept too much—just get back and get everything done by the end.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): A conversation with a family member could be significant today. Be open and honest, but sympathetic with this person. Don't get caught up in petty gossip. Stay above the fray.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You should be aware that aspects of your private life are going to be made public today, especially to the work professionals, partners and members. Therefore, conduct yourself accordingly.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Try to do something different today because you're searching for a little adventure. Be an inspiration to someone in your car. Be someplace you've never been before.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Set aside some time today to take care of old tasks and get organizing, volunteering, work, home and/or transportation. Get some of this stuff out of the way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have to compromise with others today because there is a possibility that you're not going to get your way. That's good. Don't worry, because that pathway to happiness is happy for nothing else.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have the urge to get fairly organized. Wonderful! When you're better organized, your life flows more smoothly because things are easier and your creativity allows.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Take some time set aside to play. Enjoy activities, sports, playful times with children or expressive pursuits through the arts. It's good to balance your work with some fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with a parent or a female relative could be significant today. Some of you will spend a portion at home if you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You'll be pushing something you've never tried before. Practice if need be, get educated, ask for help, etc., and you'll speak from the heart. Hospitality, interpersonal times.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Pay attention to your surroundings and the people around you. Don't be casual about this particular time.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

9				4		5		
	7				8	1		
				3			7	2
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		2		8				4

Difficulty Level: ★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Tune sweeteners
6 Cry and whimper
11 Lifeguard
14 Cry baby
15 Gazelle
16 Became homey
17 Tiresome trip
18 Lake to the ground
19 Heart chamber
20 Lose interest in
21 Long period of history
23 Stuff in a bucket
25 Chatter
26 Vitiate
27 Wash
28 Ire
29 Close one
31 Prize for the nonbelieving
34 Gaffes for certain ex-pirates
41 Gaffes for certain ex-pirates
42 Words from 10 Down
43 Nautical direction
44 Actress Hunter
45 Unbounded supply (and)
47 Swedish person
48 Modern
49 Knee
50 Contempt
51 Medical filmmakers in courtroom dramas
53 Ancient Persian king
54 Grip a rope
55 Cut a log
56 Fatherly
60 Prize name for

a weekend
61 Bullfighter's bull's-eye
62 Tiny bite
63 "The White Album" singer
64 Ruff, maybe
65 Bagpipe cry

DOWN

1 Misconstrue
2 Arabian sultan
3 Ruler
4 Spike
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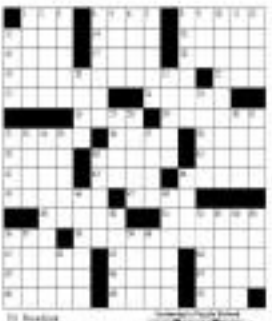
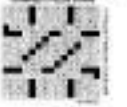


Yesterday's Crossword Answers



Philpop finals set July 14

From page D1

and synthesizer for artistic and economic reasons. In the era, there's been a lack of support. Remember that after the 1998 People Power revolution, the focus was on rebuilding the economy and restoring democracy. Music and the arts were pushed to the back seat. But the creative people continued doing their work. Many singer-songwriters started to fall in the '90s and found music enjoyed rapid revival all the way to the new millennium. Sweetheard sound recordings gave rise to more edgy and raw-energy sounds. The wheel is turning again and I think the time is ripe for more types of music to jump into the mainstream. Also, the old business model of the music industry has been overhauled by new players."

During the screening of Philpop finalists, you asked the judges to spend some seconds and themes.

Many of the soundtrack were upbeat and used catchy tags and themes. The ballads of old have been replaced by R&B, with some reggae or ska-based tracks, too. Filipino music has moved on. Our songwriters to support and accept with open arms.

The announcement of finalists was met with enthusiasm because two of them earlier uploaded their songs on YouTube. How did you receive that?

Let me quote from Philpop's official statement regarding the matter:

"After reviewing the song forms and submitted to Philpop, as published on our website, we found that 'publication' is not one of the grounds for disqualification. What the rules require, among other things, are that the song entry must: 1) be entirely original; 2) not be licensed to any publisher; 3) not have been recorded before; and 4) not infringe on any existing copyright or any other rights.

"We are standing by the rules finalists because we believe that disqualifying these would create more injustice as we will deny them the rules.

A Facebook page has been criticizing the likes of Kuya Emmanuel and Trina Belonio for having undue advantage over younger finalists.

I envisioned a music festival that would produce the best songs from the best creative minds, young and old. Gary Granada, Trina Belonio and the other professionals put up a good fight. The onslaught of the younger competitors — indeed the competition this year is tough. The entire composers do not have undue advantage. They have to work twice as hard. Silent lads do not play the way they do. Forever because they are kids. Change is constant. A new generation of music makers is upon us.

'Walang...

From page D1

Princess It.)," Text: H. Angeline Quinto. "Fall in Love Again." Text: H. Angeline Quinto. "Paliwliw ang Pinagsing." Text

OPM

11 Various Artists, "Himig Hangaan, Vol. 2," Text: 2) Daniel Padilla, "Social Butterfly." Text: 3) Michael Pangilinan, "Paliwliw ang Pinagsing." Text: 4) Angeline Quinto, "Tahan ang Pusho." Universal. 5) Various Artists, "Love Songs From Princess It.)," Text: 6) Angeline Quinto, "Fall in Love Again," Text: 7) Angeline Quinto, "Paliwliw ang Pinagsing." Text: 8) Noel Colmenares, "Pusho." Universal. 9) Various Artists, "My Popular Demons I'll," Universal. 10) Richard Poon, "The Crooner's Songbook," SBA

Ten years : 6cyclemind emerges with 'more mature' album

From page D1

cleminds, but with more kids. It's more mature. And, safe to say, it's very different from our previous albums," Tiney said.

Standout tracks include the carefree single "Blacks Ako," as well as "Rainwalkin" and the hip hop-infused "Pangako." Raimund's influence is evident in the vigorous and funky "Hero."

No stopping them

The band had opened itself to experimenting with new sounds and collaborating with other artists, as in 2009's "Project: Synchronized," which featured Gloc-9, Sibadel, Gamol on "Kalamidad," and Ryan Cayabyab and Ebon Cipriano on "Kung Tibok sa Iyo."

As for the band's future, Tiney said they'd rather take things one day, one gig at a time. But one thing's for sure they said: "In the next few years, we'll still be playing together."

Pio added: "I think we've experienced every problem imaginable about being in a band. Been there, done that. What else is going to stop us now?"

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN 3D PG-13 1:00, 4:30, 7:30
2 THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN PG-13 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
3 THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN PG-13 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
4 DORA 3D 10:00, 4:00, 7:00
ABRAHAM LINCOLN 1:15 3:15, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30
BOA 3M
HIDDEN FIGHT
Commissioner's Jew 4:30 PM
Celestial 7:00 PM
Manager's Pizza
POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL 908-3400
ABRAHAM LINCOLN VAMPIRE HUNTER 3D 10:00, 3:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:10
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN PG13 1:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN PG13 12:40, 3:20, 6:10, 8:40
ABRAHAM LINCOLN VAMPIRE HUNTER (in 2D) R13 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:50
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN PG13 2:00, 5:10, 8:00
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (in 2D) PG13 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30
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SM CLARK

SM DAGUPAN

SM LIPA

SM LUCENA

SM MARILAO

SM MARIKINA

SM MOLINO

SM NAGA

SM PAMPANGA

SM ROSALES

SM SAN JOSE DEL MONTE

SM SAN PABLO

SM TARLAC

SM TELWIN

VISAYAS & MINDANAO

SM BACOLOD

SM CONSOLACION

SM CAGAYAN DE ORO

SM ILOILO

SM DAVAO

SM ILIGAN

SOON TO OPEN

ALL CINEMAS IN DIGITAL

SM SAN FERNANDO
JULY 2012
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AUGUST 2012
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Stones may tour again...

From page B1

into the bigger one "very well indeed."

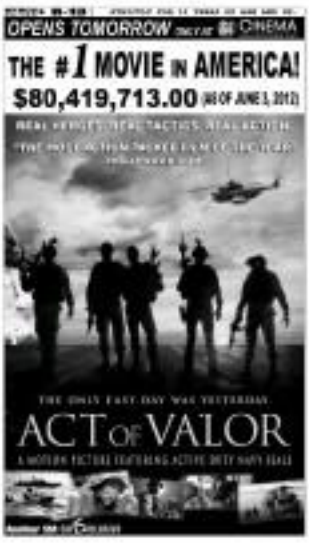
Richards wrote in the book "Sometimes I think, 'I must be bored.' I wonder what I'll do?"

Longevity

Despite the celebration, the band have continued to perform regularly over the years, although Richards recently declared when he left Kenya a retired man "I'm in the 2000 vehicle running the bench last album, 'A Bigger Bang.'"

The band's longevity was partly be attributed to their ability to absorb the evolving sounds of recent decades, with disco, reggae and punk influences all powering themselves to latest releases.

Rose would list against them including and Watts above their before their recent. AFP



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6: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
7: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

GREENBELT 2
1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
4: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (3D)
5: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (3D)
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
5: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
2: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (2D)
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARQUEE
1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARKET! MARKET!
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
4: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (3D)
5: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
6: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (3D)
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (2D)
5: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
6: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
7: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER

ARNEZA
1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (2D)
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

HARBOR POINT
1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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MARIKINA
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Stones may tour again in 2013

LONDON — Most London shoppers rush by 165 Oxford Street without a second glance. But it was here 50 years ago that The Rolling Stones played their first gig and changed the landscape of pop music forever.

Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Brian Jones played The Marquee Club on July 12, 1962, with three others, the first time they performed under the band name which would become synonymous worldwide with excess and musical flair.

Childhood friends Jagger and Richards were just 20 at the time and Jones, who drowned in the swimming pool at his home in 1969, was 20.

But it was at the club, now a branch of Intersalon Ltd., that the seeds were sown of worldwide success which, half a century on, has seen the British band notch up over 200 million album sales globally.

Hits like "I Can't Get Me Satisfaction", "Sympathy For The Devil" and "Brown Sugar" are legendary rock favorites decades after topping the charts.

The band's continued popularity, even though they are now pensioners aged in their sixties and seventies, is shown by the flurry of speculation about whether or not they would mark the anniversary with a gig.

Not this year

Rolling Stone magazine, named after the same blues song which gave the band its name, reported last month that Jagger, Richards and their band mates were considering at least one live concert this year to mark the anniversary.

But guitarist Richards has said there will be no full tour this year, despite the band rehearsing together for the first time in five years. "Basically, we're just not ready," he told Rolling Stone magazine in March, adding that 2013 was a "more realistic" target for hitting the road.

Lead singer Jagger has taken to Twitter to deny that the band would stage a show to mark the Londinium Olympics, which get underway on July 27. "We are not playing the Olympics, but I'm looking forward to watching the games like everyone else!" he wrote last month.

The band has also denied recent reports that they sold pilot one hit concert together as an unnamed London live act, with a spokesman saying the claim was "not in our plans." But fans can look forward to an exhibition of photos of the band opening at London's Somerset House on July 12, the anniversary of the first gig, which members of the band are expected to attend.

Now docu

A new documentary covering the history of the band from their debut to the present day is also being showcased in September. The band's representatives did not respond to requests for comment on whether any gigs would be held to mark the anniversary.

The Stones have survived numerous personnel changes as well as an often strained relationship between songwriters Jagger and Richards, the core of the band. This flared up again in 2006, when Richards's ex-wife Anita Pallenberg, "Life," took several swipes at Jagger, particularly for accepting a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II.

Richards, famed for his rock drugs and alcohol intake in the band's heyday, said he had nicknamed Jagger "Sir Mick" and insinuated that the steaming lead singer had a "fairy lollipop". Jagger's ex-wife, the model Jerry Hall, later accused Richards of being "jealous," telling BBC

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JASON Mraz was a janitor

Mraz bares heart, soul on TV show

US SINGER-songwriter and Grammy winner Jason Mraz, 35, sat down to Hang Ling with ONE correspondent Ines Bolaos for "Talk Asia," beginning today at 3:30 p.m. and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Excerpts:

On life before fame:

"[Before this I was] an insect manager at a tobacco shop... and before that I worked as a janitor at an elementary school, and I was a mailman for the United States Postal Service. But [through] all those jobs I would just really learn and play my guitar. And even though I was doing those jobs I always felt like a musician. Most musicians are usually working away from being a janitor. I've always admired musicians for that. You look at them on stage [and think] that's a talented janitor up there."

On life after fame:

"Every minute or two minutes, certainly in airports or even hotels, someone wants to stop you and have their picture with you. Occasionally, they don't even make eye contact with you, they just want to stand next to you and get a picture, so you feel more like a sighting than an actual interest of theirs, or a friend... you just sort of feel taken advantage of. So I do try best to ask what the person's name is."

Advice to aspiring singer-songwriters:

"I always tell people to sing their own stories...sing their own truth... each of us are born unique and have our own experiences. And when we speak our truth and reveal our vulnerabilities and allow ourselves to be transparent in front of an audience that audience gets to see them relate to the work. And then if you're really beginning a journey through the business, don't wait for the business to find you. I would say, create it yourself even if it's in your own backyard."